

Cartagena Declaration

The Maritime Pilots attending the V Latin American Forum held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 21 to 25 September 2009, following the conclusion of presentations and of all debate concerning the situation of pilotage in the region declare:

- 1) We are honoured and appreciate the attendance at the V Forum of the International Maritime Pilots Association President Michael Watson and Senior Vice-President Otavio Fragoso, of the Executive Director of the American Pilots Association Paul Kirchner and of the President of the Canadian Marine Pilots' Association, Michel Pouliot, and ask them to spread this declaration to the more of 8000 IMPA associated pilots around the world whom they represent in a very distinguish manner.
- 2) The pilotage service in Latin America is rendered by professionals and safety is the reason for their existence. We regret the absence of some colleagues that didn't attend the meeting.
- 3) We are one shackle of the world logistic chain and our performance speaks by itself of our success.
- 4) The pilotage service is a high risk profession that requires: safety standards based in education, technology, investigation, self control, training and permanent recommendations.
- 5) The pilotage service must be fully professional in compliance with the International Maritime Pilots' Associations guidelines. The pilots, starting with the local pilotage authorities should be the ones to assist the National State on the definition of the Pilotage regulations and its application.
- 6) The number of licensed pilots must be defined by the competent authorities, in order to assure the safety of the service with the necessary measure to provide integrity.

- 7) The risk analysis, guidelines, procedures, passage plans, the best operation practices, continuous learning, the management of documentation, communication, organizational structure etc developed and applied by the pilots guarantee a high safety level.
- 8) A pilotage system must be independent from any commercial pressure; it is the only way to have safe work. Due to this fact, protecting the profession depends after this forum, on the reinforcement of the Latin American and other sub-regions integration through practical mechanisms in order to empower our common methods.
- 9) The criminalization of pilots and prosecution based on the civil liability of the pilotage works against the spirit of what is supposed to be the aim of the activity: safety.

United, organized and well informed we can face all the future challenges.

For publicizing and confirmation of what was declared above, two representatives of each state that attended sign this declaration:

(For names please see the Spanish version)