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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

Awareness is only the beginning: IMPA wins Safety4Sea Initiative Award 2022 for its annual Safety Campaigns.

Maritime pilots are the professionals behind maritime pilotage: a public service for the safety of navigation, prevention of pollution and efficiency of maritime trade. The International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPA) estimates pilots under its umbrella conduct more than 2 million acts of pilotage each year, contributing to the safe movement of 8 billion tonnes of cargo. Regrettably, the profession loses an average of 2 maritime pilots every year. 2022 is no exception.

With the support of its Members, IMPA has been conducting an annual Safety Campaign for over a decade. The purpose of the campaigns is to raise awareness of the frequency with which maritime pilots are faced with non-compliant and unsafe pilot boarding arrangements. The 2021 campaign demonstrated a 13.4% non-compliance rate on ships from a sample of 3322 ships. The results of the 2022 campaign are being analysed as you read this but initial indications suggest that a larger sample has delivered a more than proportional increase in the non-compliance rate.

Captain Simon Pelletier, President of IMPA, said "The maritime pilot needs safe means of getting on and off the ship. Too often this is not available".

The results of past campaigns have been reported to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and have recently been cited by China in proposals to improve the safety of pilot transfer arrangements by making amendments to the SOLAS Convention and associated guidance.

"Our objective is to use the evidence we collect to contribute to improvements in the requirements for and rigging of pilot transfer arrangements, and the safety culture around pilot transfers. We hope to make headway on this with the support of China at IMO later this year" said Captain Pelletier.

In accepting the Award, Captain Pelletier, thanked all those that voted for IMPA but reflected that whilst raising awareness was necessary and important, awareness is only the beginning.

IMPA urges everyone involved in the design, installation, rigging, survey and inspection of pilot transfer arrangements to follow the examples that are being set in the industry and reboot the safety culture around pilot transfer arrangements. The consequences of a safety incident during pilot embarkation or disembarkation are disproportionate to the work required to make boarding arrangements and operations compliant and safe.

The results of the 2022 Safety Campaign will be reported to the IMO sub-committee responsible for pilot transfer arrangements in 2023.

About IMPA

IMPA represents over 8300 licensed pilots from associations in over 50 countries across 5 continents. We use the resources of our membership to promote effective safety outcomes in pilotage as an essential public service for safety of navigation, prevention of pollution and the efficiency of maritime trade.

IMPA is a non-governmental organization based in London which has maintained observer status at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) since 1973. The Association is the only non-governmental organization representing maritime pilotage and maritime pilots, and is an active participant in IMO committees and sub-committees.