



## **INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SHIPMASTERS' ASSOCIATIONS**

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### **30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May 2004 Buenos Aires, Argentina RESOLUTION**

#### **Declaration of Buenos Aires**

The 30<sup>th</sup> IFSMA Annual General Assembly was held in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic, on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2004.

Considering the critical situation in which the Argentine Merchant Marine finds itself as a result of the deregulation and privatisation process of the industry;

Recalling that the mentioned process began with the approval of Decree 1772/91, allowing Argentine shipowners to flag out their vessels and register them in flag of convenience countries;

Being aware of the dramatic results that the application of such policies for more than a decade have had for the local maritime industry and Argentine seafarers, evidenced by the constant decline in participation of the fleet in the national cabotage and its almost non-existence in the foreign trades, as well as the loss of many thousands of jobs;

Having been informed during the course of these deliberations that the Argentine Government has the firm intention to reverse the crisis of the maritime and inland navigation sector and of the shipbuilding industry, as well as to encourage their recovery, though establishing a number of measures aimed at the recreation of a commercial fleet under the national flag;

Taking into account that the existence of national fleets as well as the elimination of the flags of convenience system and of any other form of unfair competition, are essential conditions for achieving the development of a world maritime industry more just and balanced;

Taking also into account that the above-mentioned conditions are also fundamental for assuring a competitive shipping industry, operated with professional seafarers, and further ensuring the protection of the marine environment and the preservation of life and property at sea;

For all this;

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly expressed its full support for the Argentine Government repeal of Decree No. 1772/91 which will establish the basis for rebuilding the Argentine Merchant Marine.