



# **ARMATEURS DE FRANCE'S BLUE CHARTER**

*For responsible transport and maritime services*

## PREAMBLE

As actors of globalization, French shipowners are committed to providing competitive transport and maritime services that protect people and the environment.

## OBSERVATIONS

The actions and efforts of French shipowners in economic, environmental and social issues are constantly bearing fruit.

**1 - A new and high-quality French fleet:** With an average age of less than 8 years (compared to 16 in Europe), it is one of the youngest and safest in Europe. More than a hundred companies are operating nearly a 1,000 ships, and 550 of them fly the French Flag

**2 - The excellence of the French flag recognized:** The French flag is among the safest and best performing in the world. Ranked first on the prestigious white list of the Paris Memorandum in 2013 and first in the world by the *International Chamber of Shipping*.

**3 - The most environmentally friendly mode of transport:** Maritime transport has significantly reduced its environmental impact in the past 15 years (oil pollution curbed and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions divided by 20). Although it accounts for 90% of global freight transport, shipping today produces less than 3% of total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**4 - The safest mode of transport:** The continuing decline of maritime accidents is the result of years of commitment, mobilization, regulations and innovation.

**5 - Job creation** (at sea and ashore): Maritime transport represents in France 22,000 direct jobs and 305,000 induced jobs in 2012

## OBJECTIVES

Armateurs de France, the professional organization of French transport and maritime services companies, encourages French shipowners to further bolster their commitment to sustainable development goals:

- Social responsibility: because social dialogue and improved working conditions are the primary concern of our companies. This is also the primary mission of Armateurs de France.
- Environmental protection: because with the energy transition being implemented, shipowners have agreed to reduce their atmospheric emissions and discharges at sea, and to improve management of their on-board waste and ballast water.

These commitments are set forth in this Blue Charter intended for all French transport and maritime services companies members of Armateurs de France, regardless of the flag registration of their ships.

## COMMITMENTS

### Placing people at the heart of our concerns

Staff training, working conditions and quality of life on board are key factors for the welfare and protection of ship crews.

- **Ensuring the well-being of seafarers:**

Under the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), a fundamental charter of social rights of seafarers, French shipowners are committed to:

- Apply conditions of pay, holidays, working conditions and social protection beyond those defined by the International Labour Organisation,
- Reinforce the use of a common working language understood by all and ensure that the crew composition in terms of number of nationalities represented on board is not an obstacle to effective communication on board,
- Provide adequate hygiene and living conditions for everyone living on board ships,
- Protect crews against external threats (piracy, etc.).

- **Promoting transparent and efficient management**

- Preferring partners (commercial, ports, dockers, suppliers, classification companies) that are including social and environmental aspects in their strategy.
- Promoting gender equality: sharing professional responsibilities, equal pay.

- **Promoting employment and training in shipping:**

- Helping defending seafarers jobs in France by lobbying for political and administrative decisions,
- Promoting access to:
  - Initial training: by supporting the work of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure Maritime and embarking students on board for their mandatory internship,
  - Lifelong learning: by providing seafarers the opportunity to increase their skill levels and promoting social development (Accreditation for prior professional experiences, etc.),
- Promoting the conversion of seafarers to jobs onshore,
- promoting maritime trades.

## Acting in favour of environmental protection

Shipowners are aware of their ecological impact and undertake to continue their action in favour of environmental protection and sustainable management of the marine environment.

- **Ensuring a high level of safety for their vessels**
  - Applying rules of corporate governance consistent with safety requirements: establishing and monitoring implementation of rigorous operational procedures and providing the necessary human resources and equipment,
  - Supporting crew safety training throughout their careers,
  - Promoting vessels of the future that are clean, safe, intelligent and energy efficient: contributing to the work of CORICAN (Orientation Council for Research and Innovation in Shipbuilding and Naval Activities), including projects in Investments for the Future,
  - Maintaining the French flag ranking at the top of the white list of the Paris Memorandum
  
- **Taking concrete action to protect the environment and the marine environment:**
  - Reducing air emissions of their vessels (CO<sub>2</sub>, sulphur, nitrous oxide) and reducing their environmental footprint as much as possible,
  - Promoting the development of technologies limiting the environmental impact of shipping, "green" engines, scrubbers, dual-fuel propulsion, ballast water treatment systems, improving the performance of the hull and propellers, etc.,
  - Supporting sustainable protection of the marine environment, by protecting cetaceans and marine mammals by:
    - Respecting a code of conduct: be vigilant and adapt vessel operation (standby, route, speed) in sensitive marine areas such as the Pelagos Sanctuary
    - Exploring the possibility of equipping vessels operating in areas where cetaceans and marine mammals are present with collision avoidance devices (such as REPCET),
  - Educating seafarers and land-based personnel about the protection of the environment and marine ecosystems,
  - Ensuring safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships through early, voluntary application of the Hong Kong Convention.
  
- **Determining the best transportation logistics:**
  - Whenever possible, promoting maritime and river waterways to reduce the carbon footprint of transportation,
  - Promoting the modal shift (from land to sea) and support the development of Motorways of the Sea.
  
- **Developing a participatory organization:**

This commitment requires constructive discussions, dialogue and actions with the public and private stakeholders in the sector.

- Promoting the establishment of "green" sectors: Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Marine Renewable Energies, etc.,
- Contributing to discussions and work to further reduce the different types of pollution from ships, particularly in the context of the Environment Committee of Armateurs de France,
- Monitoring the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the Grenelle of the Sea and the Assises de la Mer,
- Supporting the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), whose objective is the good environmental status of marine waters,
- Actively participating in working groups exploring sustainable development and environmental governance of the marine environment (e.g. Blue Society, French National Coastal and Ocean Council (CNML), the French Maritime Cluster),
- Promoting and contributing to the sustainable management of marine protected areas, including on the high seas,
- Establishing partnerships with associations for the protection of the marine environment, and more broadly, the environment.

## MONITORING

The members of Armateurs de France commit to comply with this Blue Charter as well as to provide transparent information on the conditions of its application.

Each company will appoint a "Charter referent" in charge of implementing the process and to serve as a liaison between the company and the Charter Committee.

A Charter Committee, composed of the Environment Committee and the Social Affairs Committee of Armateurs de France, monitors compliance.

## ASSESSMENT

The objective is to encourage shipowners to further commit to responsible maritime transportation and services.

The shipowners and their partners who most closely comply with this Blue Charter will be showcased in Armateurs de France communications, and each year, one company, considered the most deserving by a panel of experts, will be rewarded with a "Blue Charter" award.