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News Release

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Salvors praised by former International Maritime Organisation Secretary General

Former Secretary General of the International Maritime Organisation, Mr Efthimios Mitropoulos, today praised salvors for their role in saving life and property at sea and for their professionalism and work to protect the marine environment.

Mr Mitropoulos was the keynote speaker at the International Salvage Union's annual conference for its Associate Members in London. Reflecting on his tenure as the head of the IMO Mr Mitropoulos said:

"The industry you represent deserves appreciation and should command high respect for the work you do. And all of those who are involved in marine activities should recognise the importance and value of your services. As Secretary General of IMO I was well aware of the role of the salvage industry and the vital part it plays in shipping.

"IMO has granted your Union observer status and that is an honour reserved only for maritime entities that have proven their integrity and worth and from whose contribution and expert advice the Organisation can benefit.

"I would like to pay tribute to you and the crews you employ to carry out your operations. Yours are professionals of the highest standard who will not hesitate to risk their life in order to save others and at the same time safeguard property at sea and protect the marine environment. Under the spotlight of ever more public and

political scrutiny, salvors conduct delicate operations, often under hazardous circumstances, closely followed by the media.”

Mr Mitropoulos went on to express his anger that salvors can face prosecution due to the execution of their duties and said they should instead be praised for their work in helping to avert environmental catastrophes.

More than 100 delegates from the shipping industry and its associated professions attended the ISU’s Associate Members’ Day Conference. There was a full programme of speakers and panel discussions on topics related to the salvage industry.

ISU President, Mr Andreas Tsavlis said: “We are privileged to have had Mr Mitropoulos as a speaker at our event. He was a most effective leader of IMO, carefully balancing the competing interests in the marine world. We are honoured by his kind words about our industry. And it is a great pleasure to have so many delegates at our conference.”

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