

Monday, 30th March 2026

STATEMENT BY EMIRATES SHIPPING ASSOCIATION

The maritime industry is indispensable to the functioning of the global economy, ensuring the uninterrupted movement of energy, food, medicines, and other essential goods upon which billions of people depend. The safety and security of seafarers and vessels are fundamental and must be upheld without exception.

Emirates Shipping Association expresses grave and escalating concern over recent incidents and emerging threats targeting merchant and commercial vessels in and around the Strait of Hormuz. These actions pose a direct and unacceptable threat to the safety of seafarers, the integrity of global supply chains, and the stability of international trade.

The Strait of Hormuz constitutes one of the world's most critical international waterways. Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the right of transit passage through international straits must not be impeded. Any attempt to obstruct, threaten, or interfere with lawful navigation through such a corridor is inconsistent with international law and undermines the collective interests of the global community.

Disruptions to safe navigation in this region have immediate and far-reaching consequences—endangering lives, delaying vital cargoes, and exacerbating economic pressures worldwide, particularly for populations already vulnerable to fluctuations in energy and food supply. The continued security and openness of this waterway is therefore not only a regional concern, but a matter of shared international responsibility and global economic stability.

International efforts aimed at maintaining safe and open navigation in the region are acknowledged and considering these challenges, the Association calls for an urgent and coordinated response from international bodies, under the United Nations Security Council resolution 2817 and the International Maritime Organization to take immediate and effective measures that ensure the safety of navigation in the region. Emirates Shipping Association also calls to condemn any actions or threats aimed at closing, obstructing, or otherwise interfering with international navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

All States must ensure the safe passage of merchant vessels, prioritising the safety and welfare of the crew on board. Prompt action is essential to restore confidence, safeguard seafarers, and support the continued flow of global trade by maintaining a secure, stable, and predictable maritime environment.

Chairman, Emirates Shipping Association

Capt. Abdulkarim Almessabi

The International Chamber of Shipping has expressed its strongest condemnation of the attacks against commercial vessels operating in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf. These actions pose an unacceptable threat to the safety of international shipping, undermine the stability of global trade and, most significantly, place innocent seafarers at grave risk.

Statement by International Chamber of Shipping, Chairman Mr. Emanuele Grimaldi

"I have been deeply concerned about the seafarers who are being put in extreme danger in the Strait of Hormuz and the surrounding region when they are simply trying to do their job. By no fault of their own, their lives are now tragically at risk. We call on all States to take the fundamental steps to ensure their safety. My thoughts are with the seafarers who have tragically lost their lives and their families, as well as the seafarers currently stranded".

Joint statement with European Shipping | European Community Shipowners Associations (ECSA) and the Asian Shipowners Association:

"Our foremost concern is for the wellbeing of the seafarers and civilians affected. We were deeply concerned to learn about the attacks on seafarers and the tragic loss of life. Our thoughts are with the families of those affected.

"All parties must take all necessary steps to safeguard the safety of seafarers who are simply going about their job and have found themselves, through no fault of their own, in a highly volatile situation.

"This is a fast moving and unpredictable situation. It is crucial the entire industry only relies on verified information from trusted sources.

"We strongly urge all ships operating in the region to conduct thorough risk assessments and to maintain vigilance in line with the latest BMP (Best Management Practices) Maritime Security guidelines. Ship operators should continue to monitor and act upon updates issued by official state channels."