



AUSMEPA MEDIA RELEASE

**THIS MEDIA RELEASE IS ISSUED BY THE
AUSTRALIAN MARINE ENVIRONMENT
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
(AUSMEPA)**

06 November 2008

AUSMEPA WELCOMES FIRST CONTAINER SHIP TO THE AUSMEPA SHIP MEMBERSHIP SCHEME

Captain Conrad Saldanha, AUSMEPA's Deputy Chairman, recently presented an AUSMEPA certificate and AUSMEPA flag to Captain Gerasimos Evangelidis, Master of the *M.V. Sophia Britannia*, one of the latest ships to be approved and accepted into the AUSMEPA Ship Membership Scheme. The presentation ceremony took place on board the Costamare Shipping Company's vessel when it visited Sydney last week.

In accepting the AUSMEPA certificate and flag, Captain Evangelidis said he is a proud member of the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMPEPA) and was pleased AUSMEPA was also recognising quality shipping in this way. He encouraged more shipping companies to demonstrate their safety and environmental commitment by submitting their ships to AUSMEPA to join the Ship Membership Scheme

Captain Saldanha said the AUSMEPA Ship Membership Scheme had been introduced to award ships which demonstrate a high level of safety and marine environment consciousness.

To be approved by the AUSMEPA Board for Ship Membership a ship must be able to demonstrate a good safety and environmental record. AUSMEPA uses a number of criteria to determine ship quality and assess a vessel's potential for AUSMEPA ship membership:

AUSMEPA Ships are entered in the data base operated by Right Ship Pty. Ltd. which keeps track of AUSMEPA member ship's PSC and other inspections throughout the world and their data base would also show up any significant incidents, should one occur, such as a grounding or collision. Such a monitoring scheme is essential to provide integrity to the AUSMEPA ship membership scheme.

Editor's Note:

M. V. Sophia Britannia, a 50,501 GRT container vessel operated by Costamare Shipping Company S.A. of Greece is a regular visitor to Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Presentation Photo Attached

Left to right are: Captain Saldanaha (AUSMEPA Deputy Chairman) and Captain Evangelidis, Master of the M.V. Sophia Britannia



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