



25 February 2015

## **JOINT STATEMENT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU REPORTING FORMALITIES DIRECTIVE BY ECSA, FEPORT AND WSC**

The three organisations making this joint statement have at regular intervals over the past 18 months expressed repeated concerns about the implementation of the Reporting Formalities Directive on 1 June 2015. They remain convinced that the Directive cannot be implemented without imposing a net cost to the very industry the Directive was intended to benefit.

ECSA, FEPORT AND WSC have repeatedly requested information regarding the status of the implementation of the Directive in the different Members States. They deeply regret that these requests remain largely unanswered and that industry still lacks the key information they need to adapt to the multiplicity of new IT and operational requirements to be implemented from 1 June 2015 as a result of new single windows. This may have a practical negative impact on vessel transit time.

Moreover, even if all information were made available today including full NSW technical Specifications and Message Implementing Guidelines it is entirely unreasonable to expect that industry can make all necessary preparations at such short notice without unreasonable cost and disruption. Suitable measures are therefore needed to ensure the smooth continuation of trade.

With just over 3 months before the Directive's entry into force, the concerned stakeholders represented by ECSA, FEPORT and WSC are facing a situation which calls for urgent and efficient action and commitments from Member States.

On behalf of their members, ECSA, FEPORT and WSC:

- 1. Call on Member States to keep open their existing mechanisms for reporting formalities beyond June 1 2015, in parallel with the new single windows. This is essential to avoid an economically damaging disruption to the flow of Europe's seaborne trade. We note that there is no legal provision in the Directive that would prohibit this course of action.**
- 2. Repeat their request to the Commission and Member States to provide in the shortest possible time a comprehensive list of contact persons and website addresses which industry can use to obtain the support and information they need about the implementation of the Directive.**

**The organisations making this joint statement are committed to working constructively with the Commission and Member States to achieve appropriate solutions. However, the ability and provision of information to the companies and organisations that will need to use the systems and processes introduced by the Directive must now become the utmost priority.**