

# Message from our Chairman



The year 2020, was a turbulent year for all industries across the world, affected by exceptional challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic. During these unprecedented times, we were forced to rethink and find new ways of implementing our "business as usual", become agile and adaptable and focus on building effective response strategies and plans.

Having as a top priority to keep our people safe, we responded proactively to all challenges and took the necessary steps and measures, by following the relevant guidance, recommendations and regulations, resulting in zero COVID-19 incidents on-board and ashore.

In addition, the global Shipping Industry is currently undergoing a major transition process. Thus, we are unequivocally committed to the IMO's strategy and recognize the need to adopt new fuel-efficiency technologies and operating practices. Specifically, some of the next big challenges that we will face as a company include achieving "Net-Zero Emissions" and climate neutrality, adapting to technological changes, and

dealing with the increased demand for Environmental, Social and Governance performance transparency and disclosure.

We place great emphasis on implementing any upcoming regulations in an effective and proactive manner, while also remaining at the forefront of the rapidly evolving complex maritime industry developments. For instance, cyber security has become a major issue nowadays. We understand that our business is highly vulnerable to cyber-attacks and thus, our aim is to follow industry's guidelines and apply measures that helps us protect our operations from such threats. In compliance with the new safety rules, we have strengthened the cyber security on-board our vessels.

An additional core element of our company's mission is the integration of ESG into our business strategy. We align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and focus on the protection of the marine environment and the improvement of social prosperity.

Most importantly, environmental stewardship is on the top of our strategic priorities given the continuous eco-investments in our "Green Fleet", which utilizes cutting-edge technologies to continuously reduce its environmental footprint.

We, also, feel proud of the commitment and professionalism of our seafarers, shore employees and executives as we

are always striving to ensure a safe, secure and fair working environment and promote diversity and professional development.

Our business strategy is focused on investing in modern and energy efficient vessels with low emissions and minimal environmental impact, while offering the best value proposition and maintaining strong long-lasting relationships with clients and financial institutions. Meeting or exceeding our customers' requirements and expectations, while continually enhancing our operational efficiency, is key for our daily activities.

Overall, the year 2020 was another successful year for Aegean Shipping with strong commercial and economic results, in line with our vision and focus on sustainable growth and operational excellence.

In our second ESG report, we present our approach and actual performance on the Environmental, Social and Governance issues that are most material to our operations and our stakeholders. We make this report publicly available in order to increase transparency and meet the expectations of our stakeholders.

Chairman of Aegean Shipping

