

The Captain needs to take the wheel

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NGOs call for urgent action for Europe to move beyond "business as usual" approach of IMO to solve global shipbreaking crisis.

20 November 2008 - A new European Commission strategy for the dismantling of end-of-life ships threatens to drift into dangerous waters unless Environment Commissioner Dimas steps in and puts a strong hand to the wheel, the NGO Platform on Shipbreaking warned today. The international coalition of human rights and environmental organisations called for a sense of urgency in finding European solutions that move far beyond the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) very weak remedies embodied in a Draft Convention being drawn up by that body. Noting positive measures that are included in the Commission strategy, the Platform warned that if Europe followed the IMO lead, the 10 year history of inaction will be extended indefinitely and the lives of thousands of workers will continue to be subjected to daily risk in South Asian shipbreaking yards.