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LATEST NEWS

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Dutch and Canadian companies amongst progressive shipowners

19/02/2014

19 February 2014 – In 2013, about 1213 end-of-life ships were dismantled globally. A bit more than half of these ships were broken on the beaches of South Asia – down from about 70% the previous year. European-based shipping companies are amongst the worst global toxic ship dumpers, with 40% of their ships in total sent to Alang or Mumbai in India, Chittagong in Bangladesh, and Gadani in Pakistan. Greek and German shipowners topped the list of Europe's worst shipping companies in that regard.

But several shipping companies are starting to acknowledge that beaching is not acceptable for their ships – not only for the environmental damage it causes, but for the health hazards the local workers and the population living around the yards are exposed to. Dutch Boskalis declared in 2012 none of its end-of-life ships would end their course on a beach. Canadian Steamship Lines (CSL) followed suit, and more shipowners have pledged (sometimes not publicly) that they will go off the beach soon. Another Dutch company, Van Oord, which is active in the dredging and offshore industry, has recently stated they will no longer beach any of their ships.

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