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# NGO Shipbreaking Platform works hand in hand with Dutch ship owner Boskalis for sustainable ship recycling in Mexico

15/04/2015

**Brussels, 15 April 2015** – NGO Shipbreaking Platform board member Merijn Hougee has collaborated with Dutch dredging and marine expert Boskalis over several months to develop a comprehensive ship recycling policy. Boskalis has decided for clean and safe dismantling of its obsolete fleet in a Mexican ship recycling facility with which the ship owner has established a close partnership. Boskalis, which has been recognized by the NGO Shipbreaking Platform

([http://www.shipbreakingplatform.org/shipbrea\\_wp2011/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/List-of-responsible-ship-owner-s.pdf](http://www.shipbreakingplatform.org/shipbrea_wp2011/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/List-of-responsible-ship-owner-s.pdf)) as an industry leader, reported about its progress in its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) report 2014 (<http://hugin.info/130721/R/1902782/676685.pdf>).

“This is a best practice example”, says Patrizia Heidegger, Executive Director of the NGO Shipbreaking Platform. “Boskalis has shown how a ship owner can quickly improve ship recycling practices by taking the matter in one’s own hands. Other shipping companies should follow suit. We hope Boskalis will continue to lead by example and live up to the standards they have set for themselves. We are looking forward to continued collaboration and welcome further proposals by other shipping companies looking to improve their practices.”

According to NGO Shipbreaking Platform board member Merijn Hougee, Boskalis’ approach to dismantling is a testimony to how serious the company is about applying the international conventions to its recycling activities.

“The Boskalis technical superintendents on site showed passionate commitment to the clean and safe recycling of the vessels,” he says. “They took abstract principles and turned them into practical applications and invested time to find a dry-dock facility on the other side of the world which clearly has the potential to meet the highest international standards. I encourage Boskalis to keep sharing their knowledge to help the yard progress and to communicate transparently about their recycling practices since this sets a positive example in the maritime industry. Ultimately, this approach will help to transform a historically ‘dirty’ shipbreaking industry into a recycling industry with a positive image.”

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We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the European Commission.

