

## STAB&S 2021 - CHAIRMAN OF ISC - OPENING SPEECH

Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Head of Department, Dean of Engineering, Guests of Honor, Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with greatest pleasure that I'm opening, on behalf of the International Standing Committee, the inaugural International Conference on the Stability and Safety of Ships and Ocean Vehicles. Unfortunately, it is a virtual one due to the still ongoing covid-19 pandemic. But this should take nothing away from the participants' enthusiasm for getting together and debating in depth topics of high scientific and technological interest in the wide thematic area of maritime stability and safety.

The current event represents a restart. But, at the same time, it builds upon a wealth of knowledge and experience, and indeed a tradition of quality, accumulated over the nearly 50 years of the STAB conferences and workshops. The merger of STAB with the Design for Safety conference has opened up the scope towards a wealth of topics of ship safety that go beyond stability. These include classical safety topics, like structural integrity and fire safety, and also emerging topics such as the integration of automation and indeed some degree of autonomy into the vessels.

The new Conference, in this and in the future years, is intended to provide a forum for discussing, in depth, important and challenging engineering aspects of maritime safety. The direction is for, scientifically sound, state-of-art, approaches to be developed, as much as possible from first principles. And these to benefit from practical thinking, in order to reach the best applicable solutions.

The diversity of safety topics represented in the new Conference means that it will take some time until, under the thematic umbrella of engineering safety, a connecting tissue will grow, linking the different areas and enabling cross-fertilization of ideas and a move towards a more integrated view of ship safety. A first challenge will be install an environment enabling effective communication, that can trigger the development of cross-disciplinary approaches.

Over the years, all important developments in the intact and damage stability of ships and other floating vehicles have been debated in the STAB events. We are proud for this history. And we hope this to be continued in the future for the other safety topics. So that, our forum can contribute to substantial technological developments in the maritime field. These will enable, not only safer maritime operations, but also, more efficient utilization of the marine environment.

The Organizers, with the Session leaders and everyone's contribution, have put together a sound and balanced program of papers which will keep everyone interest very high throughout the five days of the conference. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to have a cultural program, something that traditionally has been strong in the STAB events.

A big thank you to all the Authors, Supporters and Other Contributors.

We are indebted to the Local Organizing Committee led by Prof. Vassalos.

I wish to You All to enjoy the technical program and have a stimulating and productive 1<sup>st</sup> international Conference on the STABILITY AND SAFETY of ships and ocean vehicles.

*Kostas Spyrou, Chairman of the STAB&S International Standing Committee Committee, Glasgow*

*June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021*