

# Lloyd's List

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# ISPS benefits doubtful, says German tramp owner

Bülow claims new security systems could leave crews at danger of increased risk, writes **Katrin Berkenkopf**

A LEADING German tramp owner has sharply criticised the ISPS Code.

"Implementation, effects and practicability are doubtful," said Captain Stefan Bülow, technical director at Hamburg's Reederei Leonhardt&Blumberg. "At present, only the good market situation helps to cover up the problems."

Capt Bülow told a maritime symposium in northern German Elsfleth (Lower Saxony) that Leonhardt & Blumberg has increased the crews of all its ships by one or two members in order to cope with the new requirements under the ISPS Code.

Also, he expects "a wave of lawsuits" over charter contracts once problems such as off-hire situations arise from the code.

Capt Bülow named several problems where he feels security issues are dealt with insufficiently: an Automatic Identification System also helps terrorists to identify ships; software for following ship movements through the system can be downloaded by anyone from the Internet.

The security alert, which can be given by the master of a ship from the bridge, arrives at the flag state. Capt Bülow said he had talked to the Liberian Registry, which is very popular with German owners, about how it would deal with such alerts. It would redirect the message to the embassy of the shipowner's country of origin and the Company Security Offi-



Leonhardt: VDR president

cer. The whole process was far too lengthy, Capt Bülow said. "The whole crew could be dead by then."

It was also rather ridiculous to have a guard at the gangway, when in some ports at low tide the whole ship was easily accessible for third parties, he added.

"And despite all these problems, we have to motivate our crews and make them clear how important it is to follow the rules," Leonhardt&Blumberg's managing partner, Frank Leonhardt, is the president of the German shipowners' association, VDR.

Other speakers at the symposium, though indicating their doubts about the effectiveness of the ISPS Code, said that the introduction on July 1 had gone fairly smoothly.

Ulrich Tetzlaff, head of the water police forces in Bremen and Bremerhaven, said the authority had inspected 663 ships approaching the twin ports during September, all

of which could present a valid Ship Security Certificate. Only three had minor errors. "The problem is, though, that there are currently no consequences in case of deficiencies," Mr Tetzlaff added.

Bremerhaven is one of the world's major container ports for trade with the US, with 4.5% of all box shipments for the US coming from here.

Bremen's port master, Andreas Mai, said more emphasis had to be put on including the whole transportation chain in security plans.

"If we do not get people like DaimlerChrysler or BASF to participate, it is going to be difficult," he said.

Capt Mai also criticised the level of security-related surcharges imposed by some port facilities:

"Sure, there are additional costs. But if you multiply the surcharge per box with the volumes moved in the port, some companies seem to want to make quick money out of it."

Dirk Eggers of classification society Germanischer Lloyd said GL as a Recognized Security Organisation has to date approved 2,221 Ship Security Plans, with another 78 being under evaluation.

"But there are still owners who have not heard anything about the ISPS Code," Capt Eggers said, adding that only two or three ships with GL-approved security plans had been suspended from ports.

**Last Word — Below**



Greece's HS Bouboulina passes by the island Gospa Od Skrpjela off the Montenegrin port of Kotor, as part of a visit by Nato's Mediterranean fleet to Serbia-Montenegro yesterday. A total of six vessels belonging to Nato's quick response fleet for the Mediterranean, called Stanavformed, will spend four days in Montenegro.

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## WorldBriefing

### Sharon digs in

ISRAEL leader Ariel Sharon rejected calls from within his mutinous cabinet for a referendum on leaving Gaza after winning parliament's support to uproot settlements from land claimed by Palestinians.

Sharon's unprecedented plan for giving up Jewish enclaves on territory occupied since the 1967 war has drawn death threats and warnings of civil war while splitting the ruling Likud party and throwing the political landscape into turmoil.

### Baghdad bound

BRITISH troops headed north from Basra to take over a deadly area near Baghdad and free up US troops for a widely expected attack on Falluja. Japan's prime minister insisted Japan would not withdraw its troops from Iraq despite a threat by a militant group to behead a Japanese hostage unless Tokyo pulled them out.

### Amnesty raps US

THE US has failed to guard against torture and inhuman behaviour since launching its "war on terror" after September 11, 2001, Amnesty International said in a report just days before the US election.

### Uranium plea to Iran

THE European Union pressed Iran to scrap its uranium enrichment programme in exchange for nuclear technology, but diplomats said it was unclear if Tehran would agree. If Iran rejects the offer, diplomats say most European nations will back US demands that Tehran be reported to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions when the UN's nuclear watchdog meets in November.

### Zimbabwe threat

SOUTH Africa's main labour federation threatened to blockade a border crossing with Zimbabwe after President Robert Mugabe's government deported a union fact-finding team accused of aiding his enemies.

### Kashmir strike

SHOPS and businesses were shut and traffic was light in many parts of Indian Kashmir as separatists called a strike to mark the 57th anniversary of the start of New Delhi's rule over the region.

### Thai backlash

THAI Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra shed few tears over the death of 78 Muslims in military custody as distraught mourners besieged an army base in the far south, demanding the bodies of relatives.

### Kerry and Bush clash

PRESIDENT George W. Bush and Democratic challenger Sen John Kerry traded sharp accusations on national security, taxes and jobs, with Mr Kerry questioning Mr Bush's credibility and fitness to be commander in chief.

### Milosevic trial doubt

SLOBODAN Milosevic's war crimes trial plunged into fresh uncertainty after two lawyers appointed to defend the former Yugoslav president against his will said they wanted to pull out of the case.

### Oil prices firm

OIL prices held firm around \$55 a barrel as traders braced for the start of the northern winter with thin heating oil supplies.

## Schröder plea

GERMAN shipyard workers have asked Chancellor Gerhard Schröder to end an internal row which has loggiammed EU-approved financial aid to counter unfair competition from South Korea, writes Bülent Erdogan in Cologne. Berlin agreed to pay one-third, but German states want to cut their portion to €45m.

## LastWord

### Neverland free

THOSE in London looking for something to do with the kids this Sunday can catch a free performance of Peter Pan in the Cutty Sark gardens while the Cutty Sark Trust will be around to listen to views about the project to conserve this historic ship.

In the evening there will be an old time music hall evening in the Trafalgar Tavern with West End standards promised.

On November 19, meanwhile, there will be a literary cheese and wine evening with author Julian Stockwin reading from his new epic Quarterdeck. Stockwin's great-uncle served on the Cutty Sark.

Needless to say, the events are being organised to raise funds for the restoration of Cutty Sark, which will have to close in 2007 if the money is not found to restore the ship. For details of the music hall event and tickets contact [www.blackheathhalls.com](http://www.blackheathhalls.com).

Tickets for the wine and cheese evening are available from the Cutty Sark on 0208 858 2698.

Those around the Lloyd's building on Friday will find the trust, complete with a petition to save the ship, next to the ground floor canteen.

### It's a fair cop

A HAPPY postscript to our note last week about the shortlisting at the Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards ceremony of the Lloyd's Police Mentoring

Programme. The scheme went on to be chosen as winner of the Heart of the City Award for Corporate Community Involvement Newcomer.

Shortlisted alongside Clyde & Co and King's College, London, Lloyd's was recognised for its involvement in police mentoring schemes in the East London boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Newham.

Lloyd's chief executive Nick Prettejohn says: "This innovative scheme has received market-wide support and has helped to develop the management skills of local police officers in east London."

### Wisdom of Solomon

MANY of our older readers will undoubtedly have fond memories of Radio Caroline, broadcast illegally from a ship just outside UK territorial waters at a time when music was rarely heard over the airwaves — and certainly nothing outside the mainstream.

The authorities went to extraordinary lengths in the 1960s to stop the pirate radio station from broadcasting the early recordings of bands that would now be considered middle-of-the-road, such as the Rolling Stones or the Animals.

Instead, the British public was largely restricted to the BBC's Home Service, the Light Programme, or high-brow classical music on Third Programme — and that was it.

So the thrill of listening to rock, jazz or blues being played from a couple of ships moored in the English Channel is almost impossible to explain to younger generations brought up on round-the-clock music stations catering for every conceivable taste.



### Queue here for the flu cruise

PASSENGERS board the Victoria Clipper high-speed ferry from Seattle to Victoria, British Columbia, in the early morning hours this week in Seattle.

Many on board the ship had booked the two and a half hour voyage to get a flu shot at the Canadian ferry terminal, a package deal offered by the ferry company at a discounted price.

Weekday sailing, which normally operates at 33% capacity at this time of year, was sold out, with about 330 people making the trip.

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But whatever happened to those early pioneers who changed the face of broadcasting for ever?

Well, Lloyd's List recently bumped into Philip Solomon, one of the directors of Radio Caroline in those heady days.

Solomon also had his own record label that he later sold to EMI before heading into retirement.

But the appeal of life in the slow lane did not last long, and Solomon started to manage a few artists of a different kind — painters rather than musicians.

One of his protégés, Robbie Wraith, currently has a one-man exhibition at the Pettley Fine Art gallery in central London.

Wraith studied painting and drawing in Florence under Pietro Annigoni and the Prince of Wales is a keen admirer, describing Wraith as "a remarkable draughtsman".

So pop along, spend some of those vast cashpiles, and reminisce about how a handful or latter-day pirates

managed to defy the establishment with the help of a converted ferry — and ultimately force the BBC to respond to popular demand.

### Tobacco terror

YOU could call it an unexpected fringe benefit of International Ship and Port Facility Security Code implementation.

The small Scottish port of Montrose spent £160,000 on anti-terrorist measures, including security cameras.

So far, the equipment has not foiled any evil attacks from al-Qa'eda.

But what it has done, according to the Scottish press, is uncover illicit tobacco and alcohol smuggling undertaken by the port's own staff.

The matter was reported to Customs and Excise. However, it seems the miscreants will not be brought to book.

The reason? The cunning so and sos have consumed the evidence.

# OpenPlan



Won S.Yim  
Engineer Surveyor,  
Plan approval office, Korea

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