

**Disclosure form concerning the compliance with the Governance Code for Public Company "Lithuanian Shipping Company", 2008, listed on the regulated market**

The public company „*Lithuanian Shipping Company*“, following Article 21 paragraph 3 of Law on Government Securities of the Republic of Lithuania and item 20.5 of Trading Rules of Vilnius Stock Exchange, discloses its compliance with Governance Code, approved by VSE for the companies listed on the regulated market, and its specific provisions.

PRINCIPLES/ RECOMMENDATIONS	YES/NO /NOT APPLICABLE	COMMENT
<p>Principle I: Basic Provisions</p> <p>The overriding objective of a company should be to operate in common interests of all the shareholders by optimizing over time shareholder value.</p>		
<p>1.1. A company should adopt and make public the company's development strategy and objectives by clearly declaring how the company intends to meet the interests of its shareholders and optimize shareholder value.</p>	Yes	<p>Financial reports are the key source of information about the company. Development strategy and objectives of the company are published and declared at the annual general shareholders' meeting following the end of the financial year.</p>
<p>1.2. All management bodies of a company should act in furtherance of the declared strategic objectives in view of the need to optimize shareholder value.</p>	Yes	<p>In other case, the implementation of the strategic objectives is impossible.</p>
<p>1.3. A company's supervisory and management bodies should act in close co-operation in order to attain maximum benefit for the company and its shareholders.</p>	Yes	<p>Manager is elected, revoked, as well as dismissed by the board of the company. Manager in his activities follows the Articles of Association of the company as well as the decisions of the bodies of the company – general shareholders' meeting, supervisory board, as well as board. The board discusses, approves, analyzes, assesses, and accepts. The supervisory board elects, supervises, presents offers to the board and the manager, as well as solves supervisory matters related to the activities of the management bodies of the company.</p>
<p>1.4. A company's supervisory and management bodies should ensure that the rights and interests of persons other than the company's shareholders (e.g. employees, creditors, suppliers, clients, local community), participating in or connected with the company's operation, are duly respected.</p>	Yes	
<p>Principle II: The corporate governance framework</p> <p>The corporate governance framework should ensure the strategic guidance of the company, the effective oversight of the company's management bodies, an appropriate balance and distribution of functions between the company's bodies, protection of the shareholders' interests.</p>		

2.1. Besides obligatory bodies provided for in the Law on Companies of the Republic of Lithuania – a general shareholders' meeting and the chief executive officer, it is recommended that a company should set up both a collegial supervisory body and a collegial management body. The setting up of collegial bodies for supervision and management facilitates clear separation of management and supervisory functions in the company, accountability and control on the part of the chief executive officer, which, in its turn, facilitate a more efficient and transparent management process.	Yes	The company complies with this recommendation. Management bodies of the company are the general shareholders' meeting, the supervisory board, the board, as well as the manager of the company.
2.2. A collegial management body is responsible for the strategic management of the company and performs other key functions of corporate governance. A collegial supervisory body is responsible for the effective supervision of the company's management bodies.	Yes	The supervisory board is a collegial body performing the supervision of the activities of the company. The board is a collegial management body of the company.
2.3. Where a company chooses to form only one collegial body, it is recommended that it should be a supervisory body, i.e. the supervisory board. In such a case, the supervisory board is responsible for the effective monitoring of the functions performed by the company's chief executive officer.	Not applicable	Both the supervisory board and the board are formed in the company.
2.4. The collegial supervisory body to be elected by the general shareholders' meeting should be set up and should act in the manner defined in Principles III and IV. Where a company should decide not to set up a collegial supervisory body but rather a collegial management body, i.e. the board, Principles III and IV should apply to the board as long as that does not contradict the essence and purpose of this body. <sup>1</sup>	Yes	
2.5. Company's management and supervisory bodies should comprise such number of board (executive directors) and supervisory (non-executive directors) board members that no individual or small group of individuals can dominate decision-making on the part of these bodies. <sup>2</sup>	Yes	Supervisory board consists of 5 members, as well as the board – 5 members.
2.6. Non-executive directors or members of the supervisory board should be appointed for specified terms subject to individual re-election, at maximum intervals provided for in the Lithuanian legislation with a view to ensuring necessary development of professional experience and sufficiently frequent reconfirmation of their status. A possibility to remove them should also be stipulated however this procedure should not be easier than the removal procedure for an executive director or a member of the management board.	Yes	The supervisory board of the company is elected for the period of 4 years. The number of reelections of the member of the supervisory board is not limited. The members of the board are elected by the supervisory board for the period of four years. The number of reelections of the members of the board and the chairman of the board is not limited.

<sup>1</sup> Provisions of Principles III and IV are more applicable to those instances when the general shareholders' meeting elects the supervisory board, i.e. a body that is essentially formed to ensure oversight of the company's board and the chief executive officer and to represent the company's shareholders. However, in case the company does not form the supervisory board but rather the board, most of the recommendations set out in Principles III and IV become important and applicable to the board as well. Furthermore, it should be noted that certain recommendations, which are in their essence and nature applicable exclusively to the supervisory board, should not be applied to the board, as the competence and functions of these bodies according to the Law on Companies of the Republic of Lithuania (*Official Gazette*, 2003, No 123-5574) are different. For instance, item 3.1 of the Code concerning oversight of the management bodies applies to the extent it concerns the oversight of the chief executive officer of the company, but not of the board itself; item 4.1 of the Code concerning recommendations to the management bodies applies to the extent it relates to the provision of recommendations to the company's chief executive officer; item 4.4 of the Code concerning independence of the collegial body elected by the general meeting from the company's management bodies is applied to the extent it concerns independence from the chief executive officer.

<sup>2</sup> Definitions 'executive director' and 'non-executive director' are used in cases when a company has only one collegial body.

<p>2.7. Chairman of the collegial body elected by the general shareholders' meeting may be a person whose current or past office constitutes no obstacle to conduct independent and impartial supervision. Where a company should decide not to set up a supervisory board but rather the board, it is recommended that the chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the company should be a different person. Former company's chief executive officer should not be immediately nominated as the chairman of the collegial body elected by the general shareholders' meeting. When a company chooses to depart from these recommendations, it should furnish information on the measures it has taken to ensure impartiality of the supervision.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Company complies with this recommendation by implementing the provisions thereof in practice – the chairman of the supervisory board of the company has not been the manager of the company.</p>
<p>Principle III: The order of the formation of a collegial body to be elected by a general shareholders' meeting</p> <p>The order of the formation a collegial body to be elected by a general shareholders' meeting should ensure representation of minority shareholders, accountability of this body to the shareholders and objective monitoring of the company's operation and its management bodies.<sup>3</sup></p>		
<p>3.1. The mechanism of the formation of a collegial body to be elected by a general shareholders' meeting (hereinafter in this Principle referred to as the 'collegial body') should ensure objective and fair monitoring of the company's management bodies as well as representation of minority shareholders.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>3.2. Names and surnames of the candidates to become members of a collegial body, information about their education, qualification, professional background, positions taken and potential conflicts of interest should be disclosed early enough before the general shareholders' meeting so that the shareholders would have sufficient time to make an informed voting decision. All factors affecting the candidate's independence, the sample list of which is set out in Recommendation 3.7, should be also disclosed. The collegial body should also be informed on any subsequent changes in the provided information. The collegial body should, on yearly basis, collect data provided in this item on its members and disclose this in the company's annual report.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>3.3. Should a person be nominated for members of a collegial body, such nomination should be followed by the disclosure of information on candidate's particular competences relevant to his/her service on the collegial body. In order shareholders and investors are able to ascertain whether member's competence is further relevant, the collegial body should, in its annual report, disclose the information on its composition and particular competences of individual members which are relevant to their service on the collegial body.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The candidates who shall be elected to collegial body service are to disclose the information this collegial body about their positions in other companies and how the activities of these companies are connected with this particular company and its affiliated. The members of company supervisory body shall be elected by the supervisory board and the head of the company shall be elected by the board. Within the competence empowered by the law the head of the company – general director is responsible for preparation, supervision and signing of the annual report.</p>

<sup>3</sup> Attention should be drawn to the fact that in the situation where the collegial body elected by the general shareholders' meeting is the board, it is natural that being a management body it should ensure oversight not of all management bodies of the company, but only of the single-person body of management, i.e. the company's chief executive officer. This note shall apply in respect of item 3.1 as well.

<p>3.4. In order to maintain a proper balance in terms of the current qualifications possessed by its members, the collegial body should determine its desired composition with regard to the company's structure and activities, and have this periodically evaluated. The collegial body should ensure that it is composed of members who, as a whole, have the required diversity of knowledge, judgment and experience to complete their tasks properly. The members of the audit committee, collectively, should have a recent knowledge and relevant experience in the fields of finance, accounting and/or audit for the stock exchange listed companies.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>3.5. All new members of the collegial body should be offered a tailored program focused on introducing a member with his/her duties, corporate organization and activities. The collegial body should conduct an annual review to identify fields where its members need to update their skills and knowledge.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>3.6. In order to ensure that all material conflicts of interest related with a member of the collegial body are resolved properly, the collegial body should comprise a sufficient<sup>4</sup> number of independent<sup>5</sup> members.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	

<sup>4</sup> The Code does not provide for a concrete number of independent members to comprise a collegial body. Many codes in foreign countries fix a concrete number of independent members (e.g. at least 1/3 or 1/2 of the members of the collegial body) to comprise the collegial body. However, having regard to the novelty of the institution of independent members in Lithuania and potential problems in finding and electing a concrete number of independent members, the Code provides for a more flexible wording and allows the companies themselves to decide what number of independent members is sufficient. Of course, a larger number of independent members in a collegial body is encouraged and will constitute an example of more suitable corporate governance.

<sup>5</sup> It is notable that in some companies all members of the collegial body may, due to a very small number of minority shareholders, be elected by the votes of the majority shareholder or a few major shareholders. But even a member of the collegial body elected by the majority shareholders may be considered independent if he/she meets the independence criteria set out in the Code.

<p>3.7. A member of the collegial body should be considered to be independent only if he is free of any business, family or other relationship with the company, its controlling shareholder or the management of either, that creates a conflict of interest such as to impair his judgment. Since all cases when member of the collegial body is likely to become dependant are impossible to list, moreover, relationships and circumstances associated with the determination of independence may vary amongst companies and the best practices of solving this problem are yet to evolve in the course of time, assessment of independence of a member of the collegial body should be based on the contents of the relationship and circumstances rather than their form. The key criteria for identifying whether a member of the collegial body can be considered to be independent are the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) He/she is not an executive director or member of the board (if a collegial body elected by the general shareholders' meeting is the supervisory board) of the company or any associated company and has not been such during the last five years;</li> <li>2) He/she is not an employee of the company or some any company and has not been such during the last three years, except for cases when a member of the collegial body does not belong to the senior management and was elected to the collegial body as a representative of the employees;</li> <li>3) He/she is not receiving or has been not receiving significant additional remuneration from the company or associated company other than remuneration for the office in the collegial body. Such additional remuneration includes participation in share options or some other performance based pay systems; it does not include compensation payments for the previous office in the company (provided that such payment is no way related with later position) as per pension plans (inclusive of deferred compensations);</li> <li>4) He/she is not a controlling shareholder or representative of such shareholder (control as defined in the Council Directive 83/349/EEC Article 1 Part 1);</li> <li>5) He/she does not have and did not have any material business relations with the company or associated company within the past year directly or as a partner, shareholder, director or superior employee of the subject having such relationship. A subject is considered to have business relations when it is a major supplier or service provider (inclusive of financial, legal, counseling and consulting services), major client or organization receiving significant payments from the company or its group;</li> <li>6) He/she is not and has not been, during the last three years, partner or employee of the</li> </ol>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The portfolio of the company is owned by the State, represented by the Ministry of Communication of the Republic of Lithuania, the employees of which form the supervisory board as well as the majority of the board. The members of the supervisory board and the board do not have any business relationship with the company.</p>
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<p>current or former external audit company of the company or associated company;</p> <p>7) He/she is not an executive director or member of the board in some other company where executive director of the company or member of the board (if a collegial body elected by the general shareholders' meeting is the supervisory board) is non-executive director or member of the supervisory board, he/she may not also have any other material relationships with executive directors of the company that arise from their participation in activities of other companies or bodies;</p> <p>8) He/she has not been in the position of a member of the collegial body for over than 12 years;</p> <p>9) He/she is not a close relative to an executive director or member of the board (if a collegial body elected by the general shareholders' meeting is the supervisory board) or to any person listed in above items 1 to 8. Close relative is considered to be a spouse (common-law spouse), children and parents.</p> <p>3.8. The determination of what constitutes independence is fundamentally an issue for the collegial body itself to determine. The collegial body may decide that, despite a particular member meets all the criteria of independence laid down in this Code, he cannot be considered independent due to special personal or company-related circumstances.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
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<p>3.9. Necessary information on conclusions the collegial body has come to in its determination of whether a particular member of the body should be considered to be independent should be disclosed. When a person is nominated to become a member of the collegial body, the company should disclose whether it considers the person to be independent. When a particular member of the collegial body does not meet one or more criteria of independence set out in this Code, the company should disclose its reasons for nevertheless considering the member to be independent. In addition, the company should annually disclose which members of the collegial body it considers to be independent.</p>	Yes	See item 3.7.
<p>3.10. When one or more criteria of independence set out in this Code has not been met throughout the year, the company should disclose its reasons for considering a particular member of the collegial body to be independent. To ensure accuracy of the information disclosed in relation with the independence of the members of the collegial body, the company should require independent members to have their independence periodically re-confirmed.</p>	Yes	The portfolio of the company is owned by the State, represented by the Ministry of Communication of the Republic of Lithuania, the employees of which form the supervisory board as well as the majority of the board.
<p>3.11. In order to remunerate members of a collegial body for their work and participation in the meetings of the collegial body, they may be remunerated from the company's funds.<sup>6</sup> The general shareholders' meeting should approve the amount of such remuneration.</p>	Yes	The general shareholders' meeting of the company has not approved such remuneration yet.
<p>Principle IV: The duties and liabilities of a collegial body elected by the general shareholders' meeting</p> <p>The corporate governance framework should ensure proper and effective functioning of the collegial body elected by the general shareholders' meeting, and the powers granted to the collegial body should ensure effective monitoring<sup>7</sup> of the company's management bodies and protection of interests of all the company's shareholders.</p>		
<p>4.1. The collegial body elected by the general shareholders' meeting (hereinafter in this Principle referred to as the 'collegial body') should ensure integrity and transparency of the company's financial statements and the control system. The collegial body should issue recommendations to the company's management bodies and monitor and control the company's management performance.<sup>8</sup></p>	Yes	

<sup>6</sup> It is notable that currently it is not yet completely clear, in what form members of the supervisory board or the board may be remunerated for their work in these bodies. The Law on Companies of the Republic of Lithuania (*Official Gazette*, 2003, No 123-5574) provides that members of the supervisory board or the board may be remunerated for their work in the supervisory board or the board by payment of annual bonuses (tantiems) in the manner prescribed by Article 59 of this Law, i.e. from the company's profit. The current wording, contrary to the wording effective before 1 January 2004, eliminates the exclusive requirement that annual bonuses (tantiems) should be the *only* form of the company's compensation to members of the supervisory board or the board. So it seems that the Law contains no prohibition to remunerate members of the supervisory board or the board for their work in other forms, besides bonuses, although this possibility is not expressly stated either.

<sup>7</sup> See Footnote 3.

<sup>8</sup> See Footnote 3. In the event the collegial body elected by the general shareholders' meeting is the board, it should provide recommendations to the company's single-person body of management, i.e. the company's chief executive officer.

<p>4.2. Members of the collegial body should act in good faith, with care and responsibility for the benefit and in the interests of the company and its shareholders with due regard to the interests of employees and public welfare. Independent members of the collegial body should (a) under all circumstances maintain independence of their analysis, decision-making and actions (b) do not seek and accept any unjustified privileges that might compromise their independence, and (c) clearly express their objections should a member consider that decision of the collegial body is against the interests of the company. Should a collegial body have passed decisions independent member has serious doubts about, the member should make adequate conclusions. Should an independent member resign from his office, he should explain the reasons in a letter addressed to the collegial body or audit committee and, if necessary, respective company-not-pertaining body (institution).</p>	Yes	<p>According to the data, available to the company, all members of the supervisory board and the board act in good faith in respect of the company, follow the interests of the company rather than their own interests or those of the third persons, trying to keep their independence in decision-making.</p>
<p>4.3. Each member should devote sufficient time and attention to perform his duties as a member of the collegial body. Each member of the collegial body should limit other professional obligations of his (in particular any directorships held in other companies) in such a manner they do not interfere with proper performance of duties of a member of the collegial body. In the event a member of the collegial body should be present in less than a half<sup>9</sup> of the meetings of the collegial body throughout the financial year of the company, shareholders of the company should be notified.</p>	Yes	<p>The portfolio of the company is owned by the State, represented by the Ministry of Communication of the Republic of Lithuania, the employees of which form the supervisory board as well as the majority (4/5) of the board. Other data is not available to the company.</p>
<p>4.4. Where decisions of a collegial body may have a different effect on the company's shareholders, the collegial body should treat all shareholders impartially and fairly. It should ensure that shareholders are properly informed on the company's affairs, strategies, risk management and resolution of conflicts of interest. The company should have a clearly established role of members of the collegial body when communicating with and committing to shareholders.</p>	Yes	
<p>4.5. It is recommended that transactions (except insignificant ones due to their low value or concluded when carrying out routine operations in the company under usual conditions), concluded between the company and its shareholders, members of the supervisory or managing bodies or other natural or legal persons that exert or may exert influence on the company's management should be subject to approval of the collegial body. The decision concerning approval of such transactions should be deemed adopted only provided the majority of the independent members of the collegial body voted for such a decision.</p>	Maybe	<p>This is provided for in the Articles of Association of the company.</p>

<sup>9</sup> It is notable that companies can make this requirement more stringent and provide that shareholders should be informed about failure to participate at the meetings of the collegial body if, for instance, a member of the collegial body participated at less than 2/3 or 3/4 of the meetings. Such measures, which ensure active participation in the meetings of the collegial body, are encouraged and will constitute an example of more suitable corporate governance.

