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"Costa Concordia", Carnival Corporation and the ISM-code

"Costa Concordia" ran aground on 13 January 2012 as it sailed past the island of Giglio, Italian west coast. We understand that Costa Crociere / Costa Cruises is "the company" - and responsible for the operation of the ship - according to the international ISM-code. Carnival Corporation mentions Costa Cruises as one of their global brands.

Media reports that there has been major deviations before the cruise ship grounded - when the ship grounded and also during the evacuation and rescue operation. We understand that "Costa Concordia" is registered under the flag of Italy. We trust that all the details of what happened and the responsibility will be investigated by the Italian prosecution authorities and the independent maritime inquiry.

The captain Francesco Schettino is arrested, and this evening media report that the company has sued captain Schettino. The Company, Carnival Corporation / Costa Crociere has given public statements already Sunday evening where they place the responsibility on captain Schettino.

The Skagerrak Foundation misses the perspectives and intentions of the ISM-code:

3 COMPANY RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY

3.1 If the entity who is responsible for the operation of the ship is other than the owner, the owner must report the full name and details of such entity to the Administration.

3.2 The Company should define and document the responsibility, authority and interrelation of all personnel who manage, perform and verify work relating to and affecting safety and pollution prevention.

3.3 The Company is responsible for ensuring that adequate resources and shore-based support are provided to enable the designated person or persons to carry out their functions.

ISM - code rule 3

We assume that this very important regulation has been implemented by the maritime flag states, port states and maritime industry: Shipowners, managers, classification societies and maritime insurance companies. This should include Italy as flag state of "Costa Concordia" and USA / Florida and UK as national authorities to Carnival's head offices.

Some of the incidents that have been reported in the media implies serious doubts on whether Carnival Corporation / Costa Crociere understand - and have implemented - the Company's main responsibility of the safety, referring to international conventions and the ISM Code:

- Historical incidents - such as former practice of accepted deviations of the captains sailing plan
- The state of the bridge manning and command and events that took place before and after the grounding
- The evacuation and the ship in relation to the Company's operational standard and procedures, and the professional seamanship of the relevant officers and the crew
- The Company's public statements, conclusions and the surprising immediate public blaming of captain Schettino short after the accident

The cruise industry is the fastest growing travel sector in the world. We understand that the total number of people cruising worldwide is more than 15 million travellers every year. Cruiseships visit every part of the world that can be reached by sea. Safety must be priority number 1.

Carnival Corporation / Costa Crociere have left us concerned. We refer to the public statements and conclusions before investigation and maritime inquiry and the public blaming the captain - without acknowledgement of the Company's responsibility or reference to the ISM code.

Maritime authorities must therefore take action. Paris MOU and the member states should take the necessary measures to ensure that the quality of the safety system in Carnival Corporation / Costa Crociere is satisfactory, and that the ISM-code is implemented in the Company in accordance with the intentions and visions of this very important regulation.

Yours sincerely
SKAGERRAK FOUNDATION



Jan Harsem, chairman

Arne Sagen, member of the board (sign)
Accident Investigator (ALCM/USA)
Authorised ISO/ISM/IACS Auditor

Copy to:

- IMO, general secretary
- European Maritime Safety Agency
- US Coast Guard

The Skagerrak Foundation was founded in 2004 by people with experience from the Scandinavian Star disaster in 1990. The Skagerrak Foundation improves safety and gives support to survivors and relatives after accidents.

SKAGERRAK FOUNDATION

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