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- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

Winner of 2014 BIC Award Announced

London, UK – The winner of the 2014 BIC Award was announced today at a reception held at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) headquarters. The winner of this year’s award is **Ms. Olga Lefevre Pestel** of France. A highly respected marine transportation safety expert, Ms. Lefevre Pestel served for nine years as Chairman of the IMO’s Sub-Committee for Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (DSC). She has served as head of the French delegation to numerous IMO Groups and was Chairman of the technical working group responsible for regulations related to dangerous goods from 2002-2011.

Since its founding in 1933, the mission of the Bureau International des Containers has been to promote the safe, secure and sustainable expansion of containerization and intermodal transportation. **Each year, the BIC Award honors an individual or organization for a significant contribution to the advancement of these goals.** In announcing the decision, the BIC Board of Directors cited Ms. Lefevre Pestel’s highly effective stewardship of the DSC from 2003 to 2011 and in particular her important contributions to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) code leading to its 2014 adoption as mandatory under the SOLAS convention. Ms. Lefevre Pestel likewise made a major contribution to rendering the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code mandatory under SOLAS in 2011. As president of DSC she contributed significantly to the adoption of important amendments to the Convention for Safe Containers (CSC).

The award was presented by BIC Chairman Michel Hennemand who stated, “Ms. Lefevre Pestel is highly respected not only in France but among the international community as well, for her expertise in the area of dangerous goods, her excellent work as Chairman of the DSC Sub-committee and of the technical working group charged with editing dangerous goods regulations. While presiding over the DSC, Ms. Lefevre Pestel was appreciated by all for her sense of compromise and diplomacy as well as her technical expertise”. Mr. Hennemand also thanked the Secretariat for the opportunity to present this year’s award at the IMO gathering, thus allowing Ms. Lefevre Pestel the opportunity to receive the well-deserved recognition in the company of her colleagues and friends from around the world.



Olga Lefevre Pestel

A chemical engineer by training, Ms. Lefevre Pestel has over 22 years experience in maritime safety. She joined the French maritime ministry in 1992 and has held numerous high-level roles related to cargo safety, in particular related to the transport of dangerous goods. In 2012 she joined the maritime training directorate and this month became Deputy Assistant Director for Seafarers and Maritime Training at the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy – the French Ministry responsible for maritime affairs. Ms. Lefevre Pestel was made a Chevalier in the Ordre du Mérite Maritime in 2013.



The award ceremony was attended by the Secretary General of the IMO, Mr. Koji Sekimizu, distinguished heads of delegations and other representatives attending the opening night reception of the Sub-Committee on the Carriage of Cargoes (CCC), which replaces the DSC. The BIC is a regular participant at the CCC and holds official consultative status at the IMO.

About the BIC

Founded under the auspices of the International Chamber of Commerce in 1933 as a neutral, non-profit, international organization, the BIC today has over 2000 members in 120 countries. The BIC has played an important role in the growth of containerization, with its long-established and active role in the development of industry standards and its appointment by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in 1972 as the industry’s global container prefix registry – a registry further endorsed by international customs conventions. Today, the BIC code is the “international calling card” of nearly every container in international trade, allowing for proper identification and facilitating the crossing of borders without delay. With a mission to promote the safe, secure and sustainable expansion of intermodal transportation, the BIC enables professional dialogue amongst its members, standards bodies, governments and other industry organizations.

For further Information:

Douglas Owen
douglas.owen@bic-code.org
+33 47 66 63 57