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(Unione Sindacale Capitani Lungo Corso al Comando /Unione Nazionale Capitani Direttori di Macchina /Stato Maggiore Abilitato al Comando o alla Direzione di Macchina)

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**Speech by Capt. Claudio Tomei,
president of USCLAC**

27th CESMA annual general assembly

Genoa, 6 May 2022

Dear all,

on behalf of trade union USCLAC I'm very pleased to welcome you at CESMA 27th general assembly.

My name is Claudio Tomei and I'm the president of USCLAC, an organisation founded in 1967 here in Genoa that today, after more than 50 years of activity, represents around 700 seafarers, the vast majority of them being shipmasters and chief engineers.

For us it's a honour and privilege to host this high-profile, international event. I'm also very happy to see many friends and colleagues from around the world face-to-face again.

We put a lot of effort in trying to make this year's assembly a useful and informative moment for all of us, in order to enable all attendees to share views, opinions and knowledge on some of the hottest topics of the shipping industry.

We hope that the final outcome will match your expectations.

I would also like to thank the numerous authorities that took the time to join us today: I think this is a significant way to express attention for the maritime sector, a key industry for Genoa and Italy's economy.

We are also very grateful to all speakers: their high number and their authority is a guarantee that CESMA 27th general assembly will be remembered as one of the best editions of the event.

I am aware that today's schedule is quite hectic, mine was intended to be just a kick-off speech: now it's time to start working.

Thank you.