

TURKISH SHIPPING DEVELOPS AND BUILTS THIS DEVELOPMENT ON SOLID FOUNDATION



* **UFUK TEKER**

Posedonia 2024 is getting ready to open its doors to its guests. This event actually brings together almost the most important players of the shipping industry worldwide. In addition, as the host country Greece has a share of more than 20% in the world shipping tonnage and the fleet value exceeds 150 billion USD, leads to an increase in the number of participants, turning into a show of strength for Greece. As Turkish seafarers, I believe that it would be a very good opportunity to make contacts by taking advantage of an event of this scale that is so close to us.

What should we understand when it comes to shipping? I would like to talk a little about how a country becomes a sea nation. In my opinion, Türkiye has taken very meaningful steps in terms of becoming a seafarer in the last 15 years and continues to do so. I believe that the correct policies and investments implemented are finally starting to yield results.

When I say that Türkiye is a “sea nation”, I actually make this determination with very serious grounds. In my opinion, China and Türkiye, with a population of 1.5 billion and a coastline of 18,000 km, are ahead of all known maritime areas. While other countries are only good in some areas, these two countries lead the world maritime industry.

- It is clear that Türkiye is the most dynamic country in its region, with around 1000 large and small shipyards, both in terms of new build and repair.
- While the education levels of sailors are increasing with the special attention given to maritime education, it is also another fact that we are the country that exports the most sailors in the region, due to the Ukraine-Russia war.
- We are third in the world in yacht production.
- We have the only ship dismantling yard in the region.
- We have the most advanced equipment in our region in terms of Off Shore and oil exploration capabilities.
- We also have one of the most beautiful beaches and mildest climates in the world in sea tourism. Yes, we may be ignored in the cruise ship segment, but we put our own style in sea tourism with our daily cruise boats and world-famous gulets.
- We have progressed a lot in coastal fishing and our fishermen have now ventured into ocean fishing.
- We have placed ourselves at the top of the world league in the defense industry.

- Our shipowners have been the highest buyers of many different ship types in the last 2 years.

In addition to all that I have mentioned, the best news of recent years came from Türk Loydu on the 100th anniversary of the Republic. Finally, we have received the well-deserved IACS membership. Now our national classification society, Türk Loydu, has taken its place among the most elite in the world. I think that the things that Türk Loydu will contribute to our shipping industry go far beyond the classification of just a few additional ships.

While the classification society takes its place in the elite league, Türk P&I provides insurance coverage for our developing fleet and has started to serve not only the domestic market but also foreign customers. Its young and highly technical team is constantly increasing in numbers, and the development of the company in every sense is progressing at an incredible pace. Very soon, Turkish Marine Insurance, which is developing with Türk P&I, will take its place in the market after London, Scandinavia and Italy.

Turkish shipping is developing, and it bases this development on solid foundations. I have no doubt that we will leave our competitors behind in a very short time. I hope the Posedonia Fair will be very productive for all our seafarer fellows.

* **TÜRK P&I / GENERAL MANAGER**