

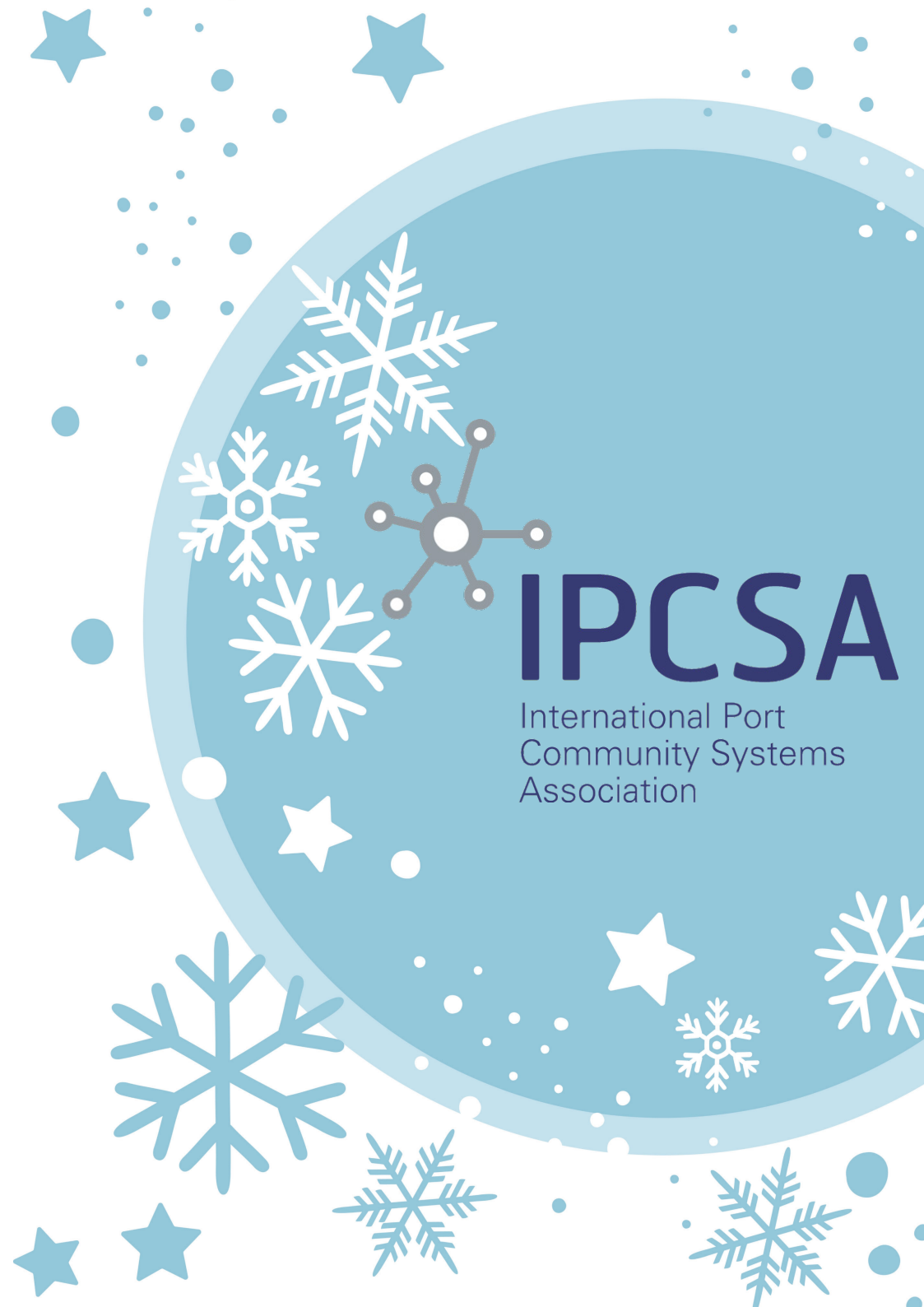
Season's Greetings to the
Members of IPCSA

“2024 – THE PATHWAY FOR RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR PCSS/SWs”

As we approach the end of 2024, we reflect on a year filled with marvellous achievements and shared milestones. This year, once again, our global community has demonstrated resilience, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to IPCSA’s mission of delivering the maximum value in global and regional trade and logistics for members worldwide.

Looking back on what IPCSA – the management team together with all of its members – delivered in 2024, it fills me with pleasure that we can reflect on quite some achievements next to our daily focus on underlining the importance and creating awareness of the pivotal role of PCs and SWs.

We assisted the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) by conducting assessments and awareness workshops with five IMO-missions – in Togo, Ivory Coast, Iraq, South Africa and Guinea. Further ongoing support and advice to global organisations such as the WCO and to regional ones as the EU Commission



through its respective DG's MOVE and TAXUD, are again clearly present and valued.

Also, early in 2024 we launched our Sustainability working group, which will continue its work up to the end of 2025, to create a set of guidelines as to how IPCSA members can create community value through electronic services with a sustainable focus.

We succeeded in approving global 'Port Community Systems Guidelines' at the IMO level, which resulted in the official IMO Circular FAL.5/Circ.54.

We participated with other global organisations, including IAPH, chainPORT, DCSA and TIC4.0, in the 'Supply Chain Resilience in Ports'-project and co-published a first report on Port Call Optimisation through Data Quality. And we are very proud to have put the first four modules together for our 'IPCSA PCS Masterclass', which we will announce and advertise further in early 2025.

Last, but not least I'm immensely proud we kicked off our unique IPCSA Foresight project, where we dive into future-thinking scenarios to study the impact of PCSs and SWs in various domains and levels.

On the organisational level, IPCSA's management team succeeded, with the supporting approval of the Executive Committee, in appointing Regional Representatives for all the regions in 2024. Further work will be done in 2025 to strengthen our organisational structure, through identifying more concrete working methods and procedures.

Personally, I look back on another challenging but also very inspiring and insightful 2024. Challenging as in this era of fast-evolving technology, many port environments and ecosystems are looking to PCSs to manage and streamline the immense flow of data in order to organise supply chain processes in the most efficient way – while simultaneously, the challenge but huge opportunity ahead for IPCSA is to position PCSs and SWs as the orchestrators of port

ecosystems.

Inspiring, as amidst all the travels throughout the year I have met and spoken with about 70% of our members. These personal human interactions have brought me countless fulfilling moments, and given me a fantastic insight into the vast amount of effort each one of them contributes to the digital transformation of global trade focused on port environments.

The huge support of all of you and the confidence I feel that the Association is on the right path to support our members all over the world convince me and give me the strength to continue my work as your Secretary-general to guide and lead the IPCSA family in the coming years.

Of course, we can't get around the volatile, fast-evolving societal impact on global trade caused by the continuous fragile balance in the world's geopolitical situation accompanied by a hugely fluctuating macro-economic situation.

In that respect, 2024 was again a turbulent year, the current forecasts for 2025 are not putting us at ease, and we face a tremendous battle to gain more control over climate change.

But there is room for optimism. I have huge confidence that our members, just as during the global pandemic a few years ago, will be adaptive and resilient enough to invest in a sustainable, cybersecure digital transformation and to put the right solutions in place for better global trade solutions. We join forces to meet all these challenges – because today, collaboration is more important than ever.

From pioneering projects to collaborative efforts that spanned

the continents, we have shown that together, we can overcome challenges and create lasting impact. Your dedication and hard work have been the cornerstone of our success and for that, we are deeply grateful.

The entire management team at IPCSA looks forward to your continued support and welcomes your thoughts and ideas on how IPCSA can improve even more in supporting you as members, as we will continue to adapt to changing needs and to act in the common interest of all our members.

While we set sail into a new year, I would like to thank you for all your dedication in 2024. I'm excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and confident that we will achieve even greater heights within our Association.

As we celebrate this festive season, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful break, a popping end-of-year celebration and a prosperous New Year.

May this time be filled with peace, happiness and the warmth of family

and friends.

Thank you for being an integral part of our global family. Here's to a wonderful holiday season and a bright future together !

Warmest wishes,
Nico De Cauwer
Secretary-general IPCSA

About IPCSA

IPCSA is an international association of Sea and Air Port Community System operators, sea and air port authorities and Single Window operators that is recognised across the globe for providing advice and guidance on the electronic exchange of information across borders and throughout the whole supply chain.

The association has members from across the globe who handle the exchange of information for Business to Business, Government to Business and Government to Government processes and facilitate the smooth cross-border movement of goods. This equates to the electronic exchange of information relating to more than 500 million TEU movements and 10 billion tonnes of cargo for air, sea and land transport – estimated to be in excess of 50 billion million exchanges every year.

IPCSA focuses on supporting and facilitating systems and innovations for Port Community System members and users, and promoting the use of international data standards in sea and air ports, at border crossings and via Single Window systems around the world. IPCSA is a recognised NGO with consultative status at UNECOSOC and IMO.

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