

“A deep sigh”

That is left after I reviewed this year. Happy moments on welcoming our new members from Barbados and Port of La Spezia, the set up of a collaboration and mutual associated membership with the Port Management Association of the Caribbean (PMAC).

Immense sadness for Richard's passing, not to forget the harsh conditions in which our friends from PL33-35 Odessa continue their work.

A year that looks like a rollercoaster sometimes.

But also, a year where things happened as if covid-19 has never existed.

Conferences where we met people again, enabling us to give our opinion on logistics in general and a number of meetings where we focused on topics that are of interest for specific regions where we represent our members. Good to see people again and to be able to discuss in person those topics that are relevant for them.

In 2023 I sincerely hope to meet a lot of you in person to explore areas where we can support you.

I would encourage all our members to download our document 'IPCSA 2022' where you will find ins- and outs of all our activities of 2022. (Available at: <https://www.ipcsa.community/thoughts/1626>)

A year where we also looked back at our 10-years existence and what we have achieved, at the same time realizing that the world changes. Changes that will affect our members, so changes where we will look after the coming years.

One of the most important global changes will be the IMO guidelines aiming to establish a 100% electronic interchange of vessel/voyage and related matters according to IMO-FAL as per January 2024.

We are getting a lot of requests for support where Port Community Systems will play a pivotal role in the exchange between business and authorities, in most cases by using the MSW.

Also, the year of our PCS study. A study we started at the end of 2021 focusing on the practical development of Port Community Systems and building on our 12-point guide to building a PCS and other previous work. Many thanks to all our members that contributed to this. In the first quarter of 2023 we will enable you to familiarize yourself with the contents.

As we approach the turn of 2022, and also on behalf of our general manager Inga Morton and our Vice-Chairman Javier Gallardo, we send all our members our best wishes for the Festive Season and for a happy and successful year ahead.

In 2023 I will transfer the chairmans' baton. It has been an honor for me to chair this great association. Thank you for your trust and support. Although I will not be chairing the association, I will remain available for you and IPCSA the coming year.

We hope to be able to meet, socialise and laugh together again soon – but, if we must wait a little longer, let's make it a year to remember by working together and achieving more of our goals.

Finally, I would like to raise a toast to Richard who has guided and supported us for many years. A friend forever!

Immediately I start humming the song:

That's what friends are for
For good times and bad times,
I'll be on your side forever more,
That's what friends are for.

Hans Rook
Chairman IPCSA