

Hamburg, February 23rd 2009

## **Cooperation with freight forwarders**

Verein Hamburger Spediteure (VHSp – Hamburg Freight Forwarders Association), Verein Bremer Spediteure (VBSp – Bremen Freight Forwarders Association), representing Komitee Deutscher Seehafenspediteure (KDS – Committee of German Seaport Freight Forwarders), and Hapag-Lloyd agreed last Friday that the forwarding commission, which was to be abolished as of April 1st 2009, is to be continued to be paid without change until further notice.

The parties also intend to agree on a future-oriented solution by the end of the year meeting their requirements. The objective is to reach a new “simple and fair” solution. This is to apply not only for Germany but also on a similar basis for other countries.

“We welcome the constructive dialogue and are confident that we will reach a solution that will be acceptable for both sides,” stated the negotiators of the Hamburg and Bremen freight forwarding associations. “With this step, we are again demonstrating that we want to cooperate with the forwarding sector and will continue to regard it as our natural partner when acquiring cargo,” emphasised Uwe Lindemann, head of Area North of Hapag-Lloyd AG.