



CONFITARMA  
Confederazione Italiana Armatori

## **A FAIR RECOGNITION TO ITALIAN PROFESSIONALISM**

It is hard to describe my emotion when I saw the Costa Concordia returning straight.

Like many, I was following the various stages of this extraordinary event on the television when my mind went back over the events happened on that fateful January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Like many, I was convinced by the value of the project but, at the same time, I feared meteorological complications.

Like many, I welcomed the fortunate outcome of the operations with joy and emotion.

Nevertheless, I think that only those who belong to the maritime world can comprehend my emotional state in front of this creature of the Sea that human folly has dramatically wrecked on the rocks of Giglio, and that today, thanks to exceptional men, returns to the surface.

I do not forget the tragic fate of those who have lost their lives and, once again, I renew my deepest sympathy to all the people affected by this catastrophe, in the hope that the last two victims might be found soon.

However, I believe that the sense of national pride for the success of this unique and "Titanic" operation should put aside, at least for a moment, all the problems that still need to be resolved as the disputes about the future of the ship and the concerns over the environmental risks.

In short, we have witnessed a unique event in the history of naval accidents and recovery, whose success is an example of organizational and technical excellence that has made sure that the world appreciate the capabilities of a largely Italian team.

In these day and age, the good news are really difficult to find, then we should celebrate this achievement with even more enthusiasm.

We must be proud of those brilliant people who have worked for so many months in this great project. We only know the names of some of them, those interviewed by the media during the operations, but they are more than 500 people and every one of them, with his determination and expertise, made possible the exceptional straightening of the Costa Concordia.

A special thanks goes to Costa Crociere who promptly reacted to such challenging circumstances, keeping solid the basis for the further growth of the cruises industry that represents an excellence of the Italian economy.

Costa Crociere demonstrated its seriousness in meeting both expected and unexpected expenditure commitments, and, thanks to its trustworthiness, appointed the qualified Italian-American consortium "Titan – Micoperi" to carry out the project.

For such reasons, I am really proud to count Costa Crociere and Micoperi among the companies associated with Confitarma.

Professionalism, quality, and Italian excellence: to them a sincere and heartfelt thank you.

**Paolo d'Amico**  
**President of Confitarma**  
**Italian Shippingowners' Confederation**

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