



# Merger Review in the Container Liner Shipping Sector

16<sup>th</sup> EU-China Competition Week  
Beijing, 12 March 2018

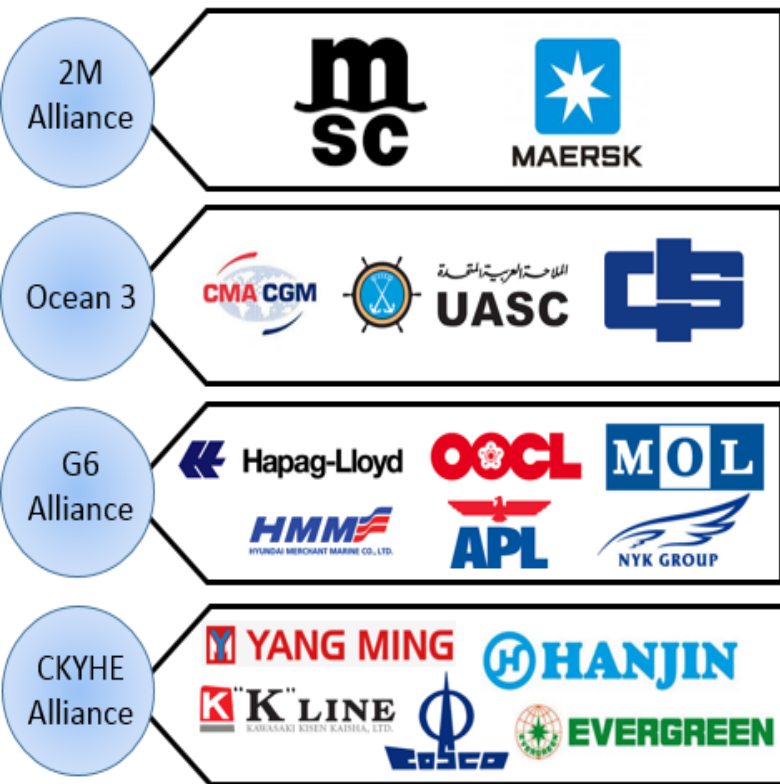
**Henrik Mørch**  
Director  
Transport Directorate  
DG Competition

# Does liner shipping still need a special competition law regime?

- ❑ Conferences were exempted from Article 101 and still are in many parts of the world, like in the USA and in China
  - Conferences allowed the fixing of rates, i.e. prices, and conditions of carriage, incl. capacity
  - Abolished in the EU as of 18 October 2008
- ❑ Consortia are still exempted from Article 101
  - EU prolonged its Block Exemption Regulation until 2020
  - Market share threshold of 30%
- ❑ Consortia BER still needed or overtaken by events?
  - Global alliances down to three
  - Consolidation through mergers

# Global Alliances Reshuffling

Current Vessel Sharing Agreements



New Vessel Sharing Agreements, Effective April 1 2017



# The Consortia BER 906/2009

- Entered into force 2010
- Expired 2015
- Prolonged in 2014 until 25 April 2020
- Review needed
- Possible outcomes are
  - Further prolongation
  - Amendment
  - Let it lapse

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Merger Wave 2014-2017

## Chart of the week

