

m/s CHARLESVILLE vzw

V.V.I.A.
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Dear Sirs,

we have heard about the campaign to put the ship m/s Georg Buechner former m/s Charlesville on the list of most endangered heritage sites.

As president of the association "m/s Charlesville" i would like to support this initiative.

This ship is one, if not the THE, last combiliners in the whole world, the last of a class of ships which once sailed on the seven seas but which became obsolete after the advent of the jumbo jet and containerisation.

Above this, this ship is the last surviving of the so-called "congoboats" which served the line between Belgium and Congo, the ports of Antwerp and Matadi, this both before and after the independence of the Congo.

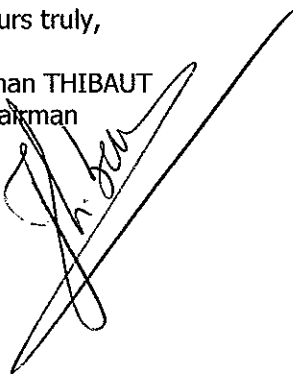
As such, this ship holds a special place in the conscience of many Antverpians and Belgians, and is one of the most important surviving historical ships anywhere.

As there is for the moment a lot of awareness and intrest in this "last congoboat" and answer the need of a concerted popular movement, we have founded our association to support the preservation of the "Georg Buechner/Charlesville" by the authorities and other institutions.

Our new association supports and hails your endeavour to put the m/s Georg Buechner/Charlesville on the list of most endangered heritage sites. This can only heighten the awareness of the importance and urgency to save this historical ship.

Yours truly,

Johan THIBAUT
Chairman



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