



MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E-BULLETIN

February 2015

Dear friends!

As you are well aware, for many years our Trade Union cares about the welfare of Ukrainian seafarers' and their families. We are deeply sure that you also make every effort to ensure our seafarers with decent working and living conditions on board foreign flagged vessels. This E-BULLETIN was developed to keep you abreast of the latest international trade union news, and is planned to be sent out on a monthly basis. We hope that you find the information we collect for you useful and interesting!

Yours sincerely,

Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine

WORLD



IMO Secretary-General Koji Sekimizu has launched this year's World Maritime Day theme – “Maritime education and training”. He noted that maritime education and training was essential for the long-term sustainability of the sector, both at sea and on-shore.



Seafarers' Rights International (SRI) has issued a new app to help seafarers pursue their legal rights. The app, which can be used offline to access information at all times, is compatible with iPhone, iPad, Android and Blackberry devices, and includes a "Find a lawyer" tool giving access to a database of lawyers around the world who have signed up to the SRI Charter – a statement of good practice in the provision of legal services to seafarers –

who may be able to assist seafarers facing criminal prosecution.

UKRAINE

The Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine Igor Shevchenko has signed a decree that significantly modifies the ballast water control procedure in the commercial sea ports. The new procedure will make impossible the groundless detention of border opening for the vessels, calling the Ukrainian ports. This is a significant step towards deregulation and the eradication of corruption in the field of environmental monitoring in ports. The Order will come into force after approval in the Ministry of Infrastructure and after the registration in the Ministry of Justice.

The meeting on the future MLC, 2006 ratification took place in Kiev in December. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry of Health, Shipping Register of Ukraine, as well as by the

seafarers' representative – the MTWTU, and employers. The meeting discussed in detail the draft Law of Ukraine “On amendments to some legislative acts of Ukraine in connection with the accession to the ILO MLC, 2006”.

TRADE UNION

Just a little over a month ago we wrote about the repatriation of Vyacheslav Volchenyuk – Master of m/v LADY FOX, arrested in Russian port of Vanino. After he applied to MTWTU and to the ITF Inspector in Ukraine Nataliya Yefrimenko, and his wife contacted the Charitable Foundation of Maritime Transport MORTRANS – the issue of his repatriation has been resolved positively, although m/v LADY FOX is not covered by MTWTU agreement, and the crew were not MTWTU members (each crew member signed an individual contract with the shipowner). However, the two Ukrainian crewmembers stayed onboard the vessel waiting for the wage arrears to be settled.



They refused leaving the vessel – in such a difficult time they could not afford going home without their honestly earned money. When hopes for salaries sunk into oblivion, seafarers and their wives decided to follow the Master's

example and applied to the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine and the Charitable Foundation of Maritime Transport MORTRANS – organizations that never remain indifferent to seafarers troubles.

MORTRANS provided financial assistance to repatriate seafarers home (flight Khabarovsk – Moscow – Odessa, and transfers: Odessa – Izmail and Odessa – Rovno). On January 29, 2014, the plane with Ukrainians on board landed at the Odessa airport, where they were met by representatives of MTWTU, MORTRANS and the ITF Inspector in Ukraine.

In late November, the MTWTU negotiated with the International Maritime Employers' Council, in the frame of the International Bargaining Forum (IBF). Earlier during the central negotiations in Indonesia, parties have adopted a package of amendments and additions, as well as 2015-2017 seafarers' salary increase. These changes formed the basis of the local Ukrainian agreement: Ukrainian seafarers are to discover wage increases. They have as well discussed the issue of attracting attention to the problem of illegal sale of bunker fuels and alcohol abuse.

MTWTU Social Activity

The chain of New Year matinees, prepared by MTWTU together with the creative team of the Concert Hall of Odessa Port specifically for children of MTWTU members, has come to an end. During the winter holidays our matinees were attended by about 6,000 seafarers' children.