



MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E-BULLETIN

October 2015

Dear seafarers!

Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine takes care of you and your families not only when you are ashore, but while you are in the seas.

In order to keep you informed about our work, we develop this monthly E-BULLETIN which tells you about all the activities and events conducted by our Union.

We're always happy to get feedback from you – any suggestions or proposals are welcome!

Yours sincerely,
Oleg Grygoriuk
First Vice Chairman



Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine issued petition in support of MLC, 2006 ratification

In order to draw attention to the importance and the urgency of MLC, 2006 ratification by Ukraine, there was created an electronic petition called “Defend the labor rights of Ukrainian seafarers. Ratify ILO Maritime Labor Convention 2006” on the official web-site of the President of Ukraine.

Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine appeals to everyone understanding the importance of Ukraine's ratification of this milestone Convention, with the request to sign the petition on President's website:

<https://petition.president.gov.ua/petition/14301>

ITF and MTWTU returned seafarers their earned wages

In June 2015 ITF Inspector in Ukraine Nataliya Yefrimenko received the application from seafarers of mv SEABREEZE 1 (IMO 8972273, BLZ), which was being repaired in the city of Kherson. Seafarers applied due to the fact of wage arrears for May – June 2015 of the total of 20k USD. The registered owner of the vessel was Saluta Shipping LTD Company and it has been in management of the infamous Turkish company Kent Shipping & Chartering LTD.

Nataliya Yefrimenko filed a written claim to the shipowner and ship manager, referring to the documents provided by seafarers, as well as to their refusal to be disembarked from the vessel without final payment of owed wages.

In mid-July 2015 the MTWTU lawyers met with the seafarers in the city of Kherson. The meeting resulted with clear understanding that the company doesn't only want to pay wage arrears, but threatens to forcibly disembark seafarers from the vessel. Therefore the lawyers assisted seafarers with development of the appeal to the Kherson Sea Port Harbor Master requesting assistance and adequate protection of rights and preventing illegal disembarkation of seafarers.

In August part of the wage arrears – around 30% – was paid to the seafarers. In addition, Nataliya Yefrimenko notified the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) of the existing claims. IMMARBE in return issued Prohibition from Sailing Notice and forwarded it to the shipowner and ship manager. After lengthy correspondences and phone calls all crew members of mv SEABREEZE 1, who applied to MTWTU, received their wages in full in September 2015.

The Union is open to seafarers

First Vice Chairman MTWTU Oleg Grygoriuk and ITF Inspector in Ukraine Nataliya Yefrimenko attended the seminar for seafarers of Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement (Ukraine), which was held on 19 – 20 October 2015.



At the seminar Oleg Grigoryuk gave the presentation on MTWTU activities and answered numerous seafarers' questions. Nataliya Yefrimenko spoke about the work of the ITF Inspectorate and answered seafarers' questions as well.

OSM also held a seminar for seafarers, and MTWTU representatives have been invited there too. Oleg Grigoryuk, First Vice Chairman MTWTU communicated with the seafarers and answered all their questions. "Participation in such Seminars gives us another opportunity to show how open we are to the seafarers" – said Oleg Grygoriuk.



Training for young trade union leaders

On October, 28, 2015 Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine and MTWTU Youth Council held training seminar for the members of MTWTU Youth Council and young trade union activists. Young trade union members from various enterprises of the industry were invited to the training.

The seminar was opened by MTWTU Chairman Michael Kirieiev, who welcomed the participants and wished them productive work. Then the young transport workers took part in the role-playing game: they tried to settle a labor

dispute as the labor dispute committee. The essence of the game was that the employee of the company did not agree with employer's decision to issue him a reprimand. MTWTU used a format of role play to present how the labor dispute committee meeting would look like. Of course, as a result, all the labor dispute committee members have unanimously acquitted the employee.

MTWTU experts were invited to watch the game as the observers: Lyubov Mikityuk, Assistant to MTWTU Chairman on collective bargaining and labor protection and Karina Vershynina-Zapisna, lawyer. After completion of the role-playing game the experts gave their comments and answered all the questions from participants.

Later trade unionists listened to a master class on communications and feedback. They learnt how to correctly and effectively create an information note in order to inform about any activities taken.

After that an extended session of MTWTU Youth Council took place, where the new preliminary working plan of MTWTU Youth Council for 2015 – 2016 was reviewed.



Seafarers delegated to Congress

On October 30, 2015 took place an extended meeting of the trade union committee of the Local Black Sea Trade Union Organization of Seafarers (LBSTUS). The meeting was attended by 47 sailors – members of Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine, working on board the foreign shipowners' vessels. Among those present were selected 30 LBSTUS delegates to the next MTWTU Congress.

The meeting included a seminar for seafarers, where MTWTU legal service reported of the NBU restrictions, the procedure of crossing the State border and of the mobilization in Ukraine.

Michael Kirieiev was elected as MTWTU Chairman



On November 10, 2015 was held the ordinary VII Congress of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine.

Michael Kirieiev presented the summary report on the activities of MTWTU Central Council. He noted that during the reporting period MTWTU Central Council and the local trade union organizations of enterprises, organizations and institutions of maritime transport sought to make the most of available opportunities in order to prevent massive job cuts, secure decent wages, effective social guarantees and benefits, health and safety at work and to maintain social stability in the workforce.

Michael Kirieiev gained great trust and highest appreciation of his work from the trade union members and was unanimously elected as MTWTU Chairman.

