



MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E-BULLETIN

March 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

On 18th February, thousands of trade unionists took to the streets, bombarded social media channels and lobbied their governments to defend the right to strike. ITF affiliates in countries ranging from Bangladesh to Ukraine made their support clear – and they were not alone. Global cooperation between the ITUC and the global unions meant this was a protest across sectors as well as across borders. The coordinated pressure made a difference: at a tripartite meeting at the end of February 2015 workers and employers agreed a statement reaffirming the right to strike.

strike.

The right of Ukrainian employees to strike is enshrined by the Constitution of Ukraine, as well as determined by the International Labour Organization Convention No.87.

In recent years, due to non-payment of wages, mass layoffs and cuts, austerity policy aimed at reducing labor costs, deterioration of working conditions, reduction of social security, workers around the world are increasingly forced to exercise their right to strike.

However, the right to strike is more often being questioned by employers' organizations at the international level. In this regard, February 18, 2015 was appointed by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) as the Global Day of Action for the Right to Strike.

On February 18 MTWTU as well organized a seminar, attended by more than 120 seafarers – members of MTWTU. During the seminar, seafarers were able to communicate with the ITF Inspector in Ukraine, with MTWTU lawyers, who provided clarifications on issues that are of more interest to seafarers. (Due to unfavorable social and economic situation in Ukraine seafarers are interested in the issues of mobilization and border crossing, all the more so the media spreads flimsy rumors and there is a lack of reliable information). In addition to the main topic, health issues were discussed at the seminar as well. Seafarers learnt about the situation around the Ebola virus and received a number of recommendations on preventive measures. Participants also were asked to complete ITF survey on HIV/AIDS and wellness in the maritime sector. In addition, seafarers watched a social movie about the alcohol effects



MTWTU ready to fight for the right to strike

60 thousand of Ukrainian maritime industry workers – members of Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine supported the action against the prohibition of the right to

on human body.

However, the main topic of the seminar on February 18 was the Global Day of Action for the Right to Strike. Seafarers got acquainted with the background of the Global Day, and learnt of the existing rules in the national legislation regarding this issue. The meeting resulted with the Appeal to the Ukrainian government, supported by seafarers. Soon the Appeal will be directed to the appropriate authorities.

SOCIAL



Seafarers - our Trade Union members visited the "Black Sea" movie screening, casting Jude Law. Black Sea is the story a submarine captain, who takes a job with a shadowy backer to search the depths of the Black Sea for a submarine rumored to be loaded with gold. "Thank God, this movie has almost nothing to do with our work. However, if I were this captain, I'd agree to look for treasures too, especially in the Black Sea" - joked one of the seafarers, invited to the cinema.

In February 2015, the Trade Union magazine "Morskoy" celebrated its 5th anniversary. This magazine was the first infotainment edition interesting not only for the seafarers, but also for their families. Thanks to the wide variety of headings, both serious and humorous, our magazine occupied a significant place in the daily lives of all related to the sea.

МОРСКОЙ

UNION NEWS

The meeting of the Working Group on the Implementation of the ILO Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC, 2006) agreed:

1. March 16, 2015 - to organize a round table meeting in Odessa on the Standard A.1.4 of the Convention "Recruitment and placement".
2. To approve the draft order on the establishment of Expert Advisory Council on the implementation of the Convention and the Regulation on it.
3. To express the request for the early signing of the draft Law of Ukraine "On ratification of the MLC, 2006".

Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine informs:
the official webpage of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine states that no certificates from the military office should be provided at border crossings.

Exhaustive list of documents, giving the right to leave and to enter Ukraine and examine the identity of the citizen of Ukraine during his stay abroad is contained in Article 2 of the Law of Ukraine "On procedure of departure from Ukraine and entry into Ukraine by citizens of Ukraine":

- the Ukrainian passport for traveling abroad;
- travel document of the child;
- diplomatic passport;
- official passport;
- Seaman's Book;
- Crew Member Certificate.

In addition, in accordance with paragraph 2 of the State Border Crossing Regulations for citizens of Ukraine, adopted by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers № 57 issued on the 27th of January, 1995, Ukrainians may cross the state border with one of the above mentioned documents, giving the right to exit from and enter Ukraine.

