

# MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E-BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2025

## DEAR FRIENDS!

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine continues to carry out its mission to support and protect Ukrainian seafarers wherever they are. Even thousands of kilometres away from home, we remain close — in touch, with the necessary support, ready to act. In the face of war, instability and global challenges, we are convinced every day that true international solidarity has no borders.

The Union is actively working at the national and international levels, strengthening cooperation with partners and organisations around the world. We do everything possible to ensure that Ukrainian seafarers have decent working conditions, social guarantees and adequate protection, and can confidently look to the future. It's important for us that seafarers' voices are heard, which is why we organise meetings with them, discuss important issues and make joint decisions for the Ukrainian maritime community.

The MTWTU constantly provides legal and social assistance. We support youth who are just starting out in the maritime profession, helping them to adapt and feel the power of the trade union community. Educational initiatives, meetings with those who have already conquered the industry, and the exchange of experience remain our priority for the development of the younger generation of maritime professionals.

The MTWTU remains a dedicated, reliable and unbreakable support for the Ukrainian maritime community. Only through joint actions can we confidently move forward towards a sustainable future. Together we are stronger!

Your sincerely,  
**Oleg Grygoriuk**  
Chairman MTWTU  
IMO Goodwill Ambassador in Ukraine  
Vice President of IFSMA



# FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS

## UKRAINE ON THE PATH TO RATIFYING THE MLC, 2006



As part of the cooperation between the ILO, the Office for Coordination of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, and the MTWTU, a Round Table “Steps of Ukraine towards ratification of the ILO Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006)” was held.

Stakeholders, representatives of state authorities, shipowners and international organisations agreed on further steps to bring Ukrainian legislation into line with international labour standards in the maritime sector.

The participants discussed Ukraine’s steps towards ratifying the ILO Maritime Labour Convention (MLC, 2006) and ILO Seafarers’ Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185).

The MTWTU Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk emphasized that this step will have a significant impact on the country’s image, as Ukraine is already among the top three countries in terms of the number of qualified officers operating on EU-flagged vessels, “For many years, we have worked to ensure that this European integration standard finds its place in our reality. The MTWTU actively participated in the drafting of the Convention in the early 2000s and continues to move in this direction today. We are honored to represent a huge number of highly qualified specialists, most of whom, unfortunately, are currently abroad. And we must show that our State is able to support its seafarers wherever they are. To do this, we need to ratify the Convention — as a legal basis and as a tool for protecting their rights.”





# STANDING WITH SEAFARERS BEYOND BORDERS

## MTWTU MEETS WITH UKRAINIAN SEAFARERS IN BUCHAREST



Ukrainian seafarers, who are currently working and living in different countries due to the war, need support, information and confidence that their rights are protected. That is why the MTWTU, with the support of the ITF Seafarers' Trust, held a meeting in Bucharest.

The MTWTU Chairman, Oleg Grygoriuk, told about the Union's activities in wartime conditions — achievements at the international level and challenges at the national level.

Ukrainian seafarers had the opportunity to talk to ITF Inspector in Ukraine Nataliya Yefrimenko. The most common problems faced by seafarers were discussed.





Particular attention was paid to the topic of mental health. SCG Global psychologist Oksana Saienko conducted a practical session, where participants considered real situations from voyages and learned techniques for relieving tension.

The MTWTU emphasises that caring for the seafarers' mental health is an integral part of union support.

# WORKING ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

## MTWTU DELEGATION VISITS MASKINMESTRENES FORENING

The MTWTU delegation, led by Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk, visited the Maskinmestrenes Forening. During the meeting, the parties discussed the activities of their organisations and exchanged experiences in the field of labour representation, protection of workers' rights and social welfare.

The parties agreed to maintain further dialogue and cooperation, to regularly exchange experience and information, thereby contributing to the strengthening of international solidarity between technical workers in the maritime sector in Denmark and Ukraine.

**Maskinmestrenes Forening**

Management and Technology





## OLEG GRYGORIUK PRESENTS DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR ITF-ETF SOLIDARITY FUND



At the regular meeting of the ITF Executive Board, MTWTU Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk presented a plan for the future activities of the ITF-ETF Solidarity Fund. He emphasized the main areas of development for the Fund in the near future, which are aimed at supporting critical infrastructure workers.



Since the ITF-ETF Solidarity Fund was established in 2022, during a full-scale war, thousands of families of Ukrainian seafarers, railway workers, and other transport workers have received support in the most difficult moments thanks to the help of reliable partners. Generators, food sets, hygiene products, and other essential things — all this became possible thanks to the solidarity and dedication of the international union movement.

## UKRAINIAN MARITIME EVENT IN SINGAPORE



For the third time, the MTWTU, together with the the Embassy of Ukraine in Singapore, Singaporean maritime trade unions SMOU and SOS, as well as the IMEC and ASP, organised the Ukrainian Maritime Event in Singapore.

The event brought together representatives of trade unions, shipping companies and charitable organisations, diplomats and the Maritime and Port Authority Of Singapore. Participants emphasised Ukraine's seafarers' exceptional contribution to ensuring the continuity of global maritime transport, as well as the importance of further cooperation between trade unions, shipowners and educational institutions.

The event became a symbol of resilience, solidarity and professional unity of the maritime community, confirming once again that Ukraine remains an important maritime power and its seafarers an integral part of the global industry.



## WALLEM FLEET OFFICERS MEETING 2025

On 27 October in Bucharest, Wallem Group brought together officers, onshore staff and international partners to discuss safety, responsibility and sustainable development in the maritime industry.

Among the event speakers was ITF Inspector in Ukraine Nataliya Yefrimenko, who spoke at the seminar's final session "Seafarers' Bulletin: ITF Standards and the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC)". She provided detailed information on seafarers' key rights, including fair wages, safe living and working conditions, access to medical care, and the ability to confidentially complain about violations of working conditions.

Ukrainian seafarers also had the opportunity to talk personally with the ITF Inspector in Ukraine and expressed their gratitude to the Union for holding meetings and consultations abroad, helping them to receive support even far from home.

The MTWTU continues to do everything possible to ensure that Ukrainian seafarers have decent protection anywhere in the world.



## MTWTU EXPANDS INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR UKRAINIAN SEAFARERS



During a meeting with MTWTU Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk, representatives of X-Press Feeders noted the high level of Ukrainian seafarers' skills and their contribution to the global maritime industry. Today, the company's fleet already employs about a hundred Ukrainians, and the employer wants to see even more of our seafarers among its team, especially cadets who are just starting their professional careers.

The parties discussed the state of maritime education in Ukraine, certification issues, social support and the psychological challenges faced by Ukrainian seafarers abroad.

Representing the Ukrainian seafarers' interests at the international level, the Union consistently advocates for them to have more employment opportunities, decent working conditions and fair pay standards.



## MTWTU AND DANISH SHIPPING SIGN RECOMMENDATIONS ON COMPENSATION FOR THE COSTS OF OBTAINING A SEAFARER'S IDENTITY DOCUMENT ABROAD



Since September this year, Ukrainian seafarers can receive a Ukrainian Seafarer's Identity Document (SID) in Warsaw, but the procedure itself remains financially costly.

After numerous requests and meetings with seafarers, on the MTWTU's initiative, together with Danish Shipping, recommendations were developed and signed regarding compensation by employers for the costs of obtaining SIDs for seafarers working on ships under the DIS flag. The initiative aims to solve one of the most challenging problems currently facing Ukrainian seafarers abroad.

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine always responds to seafarers' requests and works to resolve the relevant issues they face.





# STRENGTHENING YOUTH MOVEMENT

MTWTU  
YOUTH

## MARITIME YOUTH CHOOSES MTWTU

Cadets of the Maritime Transport Professional College of the NUOMA took their first step into the professional community of seafarers — they received union membership cards from the MTWTU Chairman, IMO Goodwill Maritime Ambassador in Ukraine Oleg Grygoriuk.

“We welcome the new generation of Ukrainian seafarers to the Union family. Together with the MTWTU, you will not only receive protection, but also new opportunities: participation in international projects, educational programmes, and support at every stage of your professional career. We want to hear your voice, take your needs into account and create a space where youth can grow and realise their plans,” emphasised Oleg Grygoriuk.



We are proud of the youth who choose unity and development together with the MTWTU.



## UNION MEETINGS WITH YOUTH

Traditionally, the MTWTU holds informational meetings for those who are just starting their journey with the Union.

MTWTU met with first-year cadets of the National University “Odesa Maritime Academy” (NUOMA), the Maritime Professional College named after O. Marinesko of NUOMA and the Danube Institute of the NUOMA.

The youth learned the what it means to be part of a large community, how unity turns into strength, and what opportunities are open to those who are ready to act.

With us, youth immediately feel that their voice is important and that support is real.



## MTWTU YOUTH VOICE ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

In Copenhagen, the Young Transport Workers' Conference, organised by the NTF, brought together young trade union leaders from different countries.

The Ukrainian delegation of the MTWTU had an opportunity to present its vision of the trade union movement development in wartime, talk about the work of the Youth Council and initiatives that support students and young professionals in the maritime industry.

Equally valuable was the exchange of experiences with colleagues from European countries on how to engage youth in trade union life, develop leadership skills and support each other in difficult times.



## KNOWLEDGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Cadets and students from maritime educational institutions met with Nataliya Mostnaya, HR Generalist at Global Ocean Link. The event was held as part of the Sail Smart: Valuable Insights educational project, which is being implemented by the MTWTU Youth Council in cooperation with Oleg Grygoriuk, IMO Goodwill Ambassador in Ukraine.

During the meeting, the speaker shared her experience in logistics, talked about the challenges the industry faces during the war. Special attention was paid to the topic of finding a first job. The MTWTU continues to open new horizons and help maritime professionals confidently build their professional future.



## SEAFARERS' WELFARE

### HEALTHY SMILE CAMPAIGN FOR CADETS

The MTWTU, together with the WF "MORTRANS" and the German trade union ver.di, launched a second healthy smile campaign for cadets.

The first 100 cadets from Odesa, Izmail, Chornomorsk and Kherson have already taken advantage of the opportunity to receive free-of-charge professional dental care: consultations, check-ups, teeth brushing and hygiene sets.





Additionally, cadets are participating in a raffle for modern irrigators — useful devices for daily hygiene. Now, another 100 future seafarers will join the programme.

Today, 460 participants, including seafarers and their families, have already received a full range of dental treatment from UNION DENT. They highly appreciate the quality of treatment, the professionalism of the medical staff and the individual approach to each patient.



# LEGAL SUPPORT FOR UNION MEMBERS

## MTWTU LAW HUB — LEGAL PROTECTION ON EVERY STEP

MTWTU LAW HUB, established within the framework of the MTWTU's implementation of the ILO's project "ILO Support to Ukraine: Prevention of Labour Exploitation and Human Trafficking, Support to Entrepreneurship Development and Social Partners", funded by the Government of Belgium, held individual consultations in Izmail.



Consultations were held for MTWTU members — seafarers, cadets, and students of maritime educational institutions, as well as employees of maritime transport enterprises.

During the consultations, MTWTU LAW HUB lawyers provided explanations on the application of labour legislation under martial law, the restoration of violated employees' rights, and the use of modern digital tools for legal assistance. Also, practical issues of issuing seafarers' qualification documents and other relevant topics affecting the professional activities and employment of Union members were discussed.



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