

MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E-BULLETIN

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023

DEAR ALL!

Ruthless events have befallen our country, shattering the fate of its citizens. The unjustified war started by Russia inflicted a significant blow on all aspects of the nation's life, forcing many of our citizens to flee in search of a safe place and adapt to new realities.

Ukrainian seafarers also suffered significant damage, losing their jobs - due to the introduced martial law, they lost the opportunity to leave Ukraine and start working on foreignflagged ships.

Despite the constant threat of rocket attacks, power outages, and other infrastructure failures, the MTWTU team continues to work for the benefit of the Union members. We fight for the well-being of their families by providing them with financial assistance, humanitarian aid and legal support on various issues and organizing social events. Regularly, the leadership of the MTWTU takes part in conferences drawing attention to the need for providing seafarers with the right to leave the country during martial law and informing about the problems faced by our Trade Union members during these tough times.

We express huge gratitude to all those who support our organization and the people of Ukraine in word and deed. We will be glad to hear any feedback on our activities and are grateful for any help you are kindly willing to provide.

*Your sincerely, Oleg Grygoriuk
Chairman MTWTU
Vice President IFSMA,
Goodwill Maritime Ambassador*



YOUTH-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES

MTWTU: EMPOWERING YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

During this period, the Trade Union organized a regular number of meetings with cadets of the National University “Odesa Maritime Academy”, where we discussed MTWTU’s work and shared our experience and opportunities that we create for young professionals. Our goal is to inspire young people by helping them to grow professionally and protect their rights.

We also talked about the importance of labor organization and protection of workers’ rights, emphasizing the role of the Trade Union in this process. The cadets, in turn, shared their vision of future professional activities and expressed their expectations from membership in the MTWTU.



CONTINUING SUCCESSFUL PROJECT

Cadets of the Kherson State Maritime Academy (KSMA), who are also studying at the Lithuanian Maritime Academy in Klaipeda, have successfully completed a semester at both institutions.

During the New Year holidays, they visited the town of Nida, known for its sandy dunes on the Baltic Sea coast, considered the highest in Europe.

Recall that the joint project of KSMA and ITF Seafarers' Trust is implementing the second stage, providing 10 sponsored places at the Lithuanian Maritime Academy for cadets who have entered KSMA for education. Previously, 50 KSMA cadets have completed their studies at both universities.



INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL COOPERATION

ILO AND IMO CONFERENCE: FOR DECENT WORK FOR SEAFARERS

Meanwhile, on November 13, 2023, a conference addressing the labour aspects of seafaring in global shipping, jointly organized by the International Maritime Organization and the International Labour Organization, was held at the IMO headquarters.

Natalia Yefrimenko, ITF inspector in Ukraine, as part of the delegation of the MTWTU, is honored to participate in this representative event as one of the participants in the panel discussion on the practical application of the provisions of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.

The panelists emphasized that all stakeholders should take immediate and effective measures to improve the effectiveness of the mechanisms for the protection of labour and social rights of seafarers provided for in the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.

SHARING EXPERTISE: WORKING MEETING PAVES WAY FOR MARITIME PROGRESS

Head of the MTWTU, Vice President of the International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations (IFSMA) Oleg Grygoriuk held a working meeting with the President of the Odesa Sea Captains Association - Captain, IFSMA Technical Expert and Consultant Stanislav Nezavitin and Captain Sergey Dudchenko.

A fruitful meeting with the exchange of views and experiences between different generations of the maritime community contributes to further developing this important industry.



SEKO AND MTWTU: STRENGTH IN UNITY

Members of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine from among the crew of PJSC «Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company» (PJSC «UDSC») received food sets from MTWTU in Izmail.

The campaign was supported by the fraternal trade union SEKO (Sweden), which, together with many other foreign partners, has been providing aid to the MTWTU and its members since the first days of the war.



ILO DELEGATION VISITS MTWTU OFFICE

A delegation from the International Labour Organization (ILO), headed by Senior Employment Specialist Ms. Daniela Zampini, arrived in Odesa for an international working visit.

The objective of the visit to our region was to foster a collaborative project aimed at generating employment opportunities for those impacted by hostilities, maintaining jobs in Ukraine's high-priority sectors, and enhancing the efficiency of regional labour market management through partnerships and social dialogue. Together with representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the delegation held a working meeting with the Regional State Administration, the Council of Internally Displaced Persons, and the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine.

The MTWTU representatives shared their experience in training and professional development of the Trade Union members, humanitarian and social projects that had been already implemented, and support from international partners.

In particular, the delegation was interested in the cooperation and support of maritime educational institutions, namely the project with the Kherson State Maritime Academy and the Lithuanian Maritime Academy.



SEAFARERS' WELFARE

MTWTU CONTINUES TO HELP IZMAIL PORTERS WITH PRACTICAL AID

MTWTU continues to help Izmail porters with practical aid. The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine has given the Izmail porters charitable assistance in the form of reflective vests, powerbanks, and solar station (for charging mobile devices and gadgets).

It should be noted that last year, Izmail porters already received similar assistance from MTWTU, and in conditions of limited energy supply, it became very useful.



THE HEALTH OF MARITIME TRANSPORT WORKERS IN UKRAINE IS AT THE CENTER OF ATTENTION

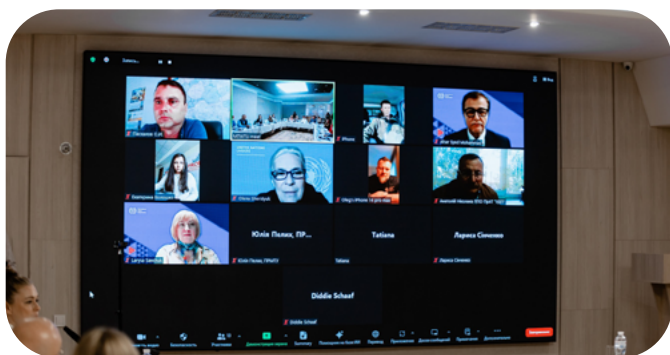
A round table was held as part of a joint project by the Coordination Center for Seafarers' Assistance and the International Labour Organization.

The topic discussed was «Occupational Safety and Health of Maritime Transport Workers in Ukraine: Preventing the Spread of HIV, Mobbing, and Discrimination.»



Since 1993, the MTWTU has been a party to industry agreements in maritime transport, with a focus on occupational safety. In 2001, the ILO adopted a Practical Guide on HIV/AIDS and the workplace, widely recognized and actively applied in many countries, laying the foundation for the union's work in this direction.

Following the event, participants of the round table adopted a resolution recommending measures to expedite Ukraine's ratification of ILO Convention No. 190. They also suggested including provisions on combating HIV spread and preventing discrimination among workers in the Industry Agreement for Maritime Transport and local collective agreements.



CULTURE OF CARING: TRADE UNION. CONGRATULATES SEAFARERS ON ST. NICHOLAS DAY

Among the symbols of the New Year holidays, St. Nicholas holds a special significance - a kind magician for children and the patron saint of all seafarers. Following the traditions, the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine managed to present 250 holiday sets to the seafarers-members of the MTWTU.

For us, each gift is a manifestation of attention and support. We understand the current challenges that seafarers, who are stuck in Ukraine due to the full-scale invasion of Russia, encounter.

Nevertheless, the MTWTU is taking all possible measures to express its support and guarantee the protection of seafarers' rights. Everyone is looking forward to the fulfillment of only one wish - the Victory of Ukraine. And we are bringing this date closer every day. Do not lose faith in miracles, and remember that they are always around!



FESTIVE EMOTIONS FOR SEAFARERS' CHILDREN

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine has always strived to make the lives of MTWTU member seafarers' families bright and joyful. Even in the most difficult times of hardship, the Union has always placed a special focus on the festive mood for seafarers' children. The MTWTU believes that children are not only our future but also our most valuable treasure. Therefore, the Union works hard to ensure that the little representatives of the seafarers' families feel warmth and joy in every festive moment. For us, children's laughter is the best gift that brings light to our hearts and charges us with positive energy for further work efforts. The MTWTU and the WF «MORTTRANS» gave bright emotions to the children of seafarers-members of the Trade Union on International Children's Day, Knowledge Day, St. Nicholas Day, and New Year.



LEADERSHIP AND MOTIVATION: DELIVERING RESULTS

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine and the Danish Trade Union 3F are implementing their second joint project. The event program is intended to raise awareness of the project participants during martial law in our country, as well as to increase the availability of information.

«Our main goal is to unite people and create opportunities for them to gain new knowledge. We recognize the importance of our work, so the trainings are an excellent opportunity to improve skills and enhance competencies. The topics of the workshops are specially developed taking into account the audience's preferences,» said Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU Chairman.

In Odesa, the Maritime Union Center hosted a training on «Motivation System in the Management Activities of a Trade Union Leader» as part of the project

HELPING CREWS ONBOARD

ZUZANNA SHIPOWNER RESPONDS TO MTWTU MOTION

The ITF inspector in Ukraine and the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine (MTWTU) received several complaints against the owner of the ZUZANNA (IMO 8203555, flag of Cameroon), which was at that time located at one of the private terminals in Izmail port.

The crew members reported non-payment of wages and terrible working conditions, including the ship's inadequate technical condition and lack of provisions.

The MTWTU quickly contacted the shipowner, MV MARINE UNIRESSOAL LDA, who confirmed that the vessel's technical issues had been resolved. After inspecting the ship, the MTWTU found the living and technical conditions satisfactory. They ensured that the crew now has suitable conditions for a comfortable and safe stay on board.

It is an important step towards improving working conditions on ships and an example of comprehensive and timely measures taken by the Trade Union.



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