



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

SEPTEMBER 2025

## DEAR ALL!

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 — maintaining communication, providing essential assistance, and standing ready to respond. 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 Union 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



# ITF REPRESENTATIVE'S VISIT TO UKRAINE

Ruwan Subasinghe, ITF Legal Director, visited Ukraine for the first time. His visit included a series of important meetings, which provided an opportunity to discuss key issues relating to workers' rights and demonstrated the ITF's unwavering solidarity with the Ukrainian nation.



## ITF STRIKE SCHOOL IN ODESA

At the Maritime Union Center, MTWTU members participated in the ITF Strike School. The discussion covered the right to strike in international law, freedom of association, restrictions and guarantees for workers.

The MTWTU Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk noted, "The such meetings are particularly important because they provide our Union members with the knowledge and tools they need to protect their rights. A strike is not only a form of protest, but also a fundamental right that guarantees the ability to influence working conditions and defend the dignity of workers. In times of great challenges, we must remain informed, united and ready to defend our interests."



## OLEG GRYGORIUK AND RUWAN SUBASINGHE VISITED NUOMA



The MTWTU Chairman, Oleg Grygoriuk, together with Ruwan Subasinghe, visited the National University "Odesa Maritime Academy". The Academy's management spoke about the education of future maritime specialists and demonstrated the modern training facilities.

The Academy is particularly proud of the project implemented by the MTWTU with the support of the IMEC to purchase and install a full-scale engine room simulator from Kongsberg Maritime worth approximately USD 660,000.



## ITF AT ODESA MARITIME ACADEMY: SEAFARERS' RIGHTS AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Ruwan Subasinghe also met with cadets of the Educational and Scientific Institute of Maritime Law and Management. He spoke about the activities of the ITF and about the main challenges facing seafarers in global supply chains.

Thanks to the MTWTU, future specialists in maritime law have the opportunity to meet with representatives of the International Transport Workers' Federation during their studies and gain exclusive knowledge and practical advice.



## WORK UNDER ATTACK: ITF AND MTWTU DELEGATION IN ODESA PORT

As part of his visit to Odesa, Ruwan Subasinghe visited the HHLA subsidiary Container Terminal Odesa (CTO) in Ukraine, Odesa port.

Oleg Grygoriuk, together with Ruwan Subasinghe, walked through the berths and witnessed the consequences of enemy strikes on the port infrastructure.

They also looked at mobile shelters installed on the port territory, which are equipped according to NATO standards.

**“Today’s visit to the Port of Odesa was a stark reminder of the brutality of war and its impact on key workers. Ukrainian dockers deserve our total respect and solidarity. The imperatives for a true, just and lasting peace could not be clearer,”** concluded Ruwan Subasinghe.



## WORKING AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

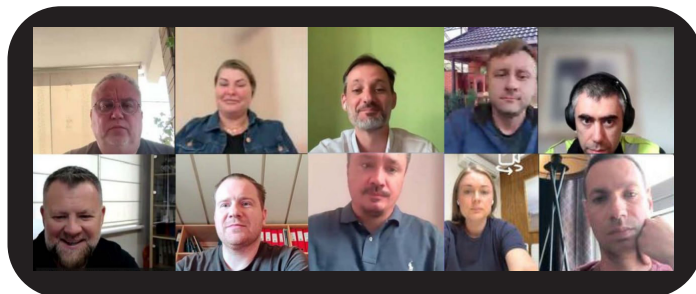
### PREPARING FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH DANISH SHIPPING



DanishShipping

As part of preparations for collective bargaining with Danish Shipping, Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU Chairman, held an online consultation meeting with a group of Ukrainian officers working for the leading Danish company Maersk. The main discussion topic was the issue of raising wages for Ukrainian seafarers who have been working diligently on the company’s ships for many years.

The Union listened to the seafarers' needs, especially those related to forced stays outside their homeland, extra challenges during wartime, and the growing workload on the crew, including due to increased administrative requirements.



Summing up the meeting, Oleg Grygoriuk expressed his gratitude to Ukrainian seafarers for their active stance and well-reasoned proposals, which will soon form the basis for official negotiations with Danish Shipping.

## MARITIME ROUNDTABLE 2025



The MTWTU delegation led by Oleg Grygoriuk, as well as youth movement activists, took part in the Maritime Roundtable 2025 in Limassol, organised by the ITF. As part of the event, MTWTU Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk facilitated a session dedicated to negotiation. He shared his experience and vision of how negotiations can become more effective.

He called for seeing each other not as competitors but as partners, developing cooperation, and finding common solutions. Because sharing resources means sharing responsibility for the crew's well-being — both on board and ashore, including for their families.



## UKRAINIAN SEAFARERS' CHALLENGES AND WELFARE: MTWTU ACTIVITIES DURING WARTIME



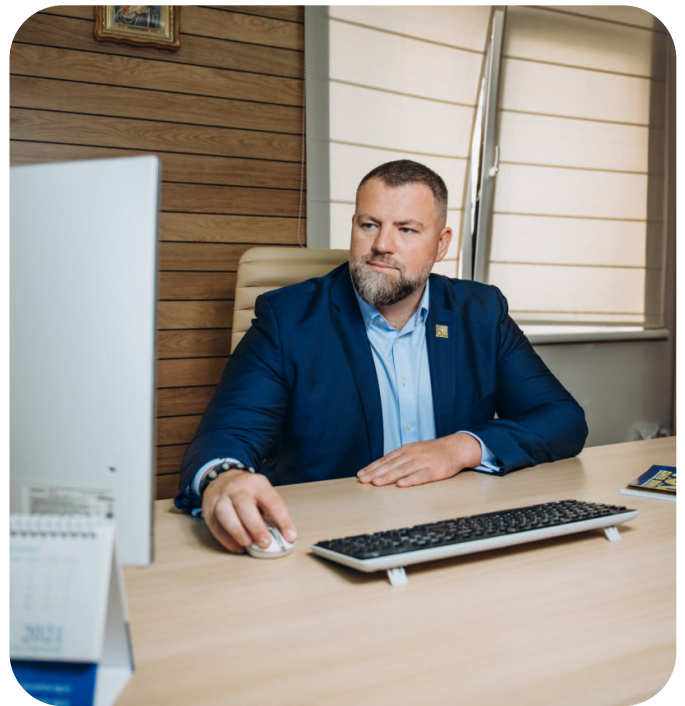
Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU Chairman, took part in an international conference dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Nautical Institute. His report focused on the results of the Union's work during the war and the key challenges that were overcome.

He shared the main MTWTU achievements for the younger generation of seafarers — organising the Unified State Qualification Exam abroad, a double degree programme with

the Lithuanian Maritime Academy, and educational initiatives for youth.

The MTWTU Chairman paid special attention to social support for seafarers and their families. Over three years, more than 3,500 families received assistance amounting to over 63 million UAH — reimbursement for medical treatment, support for displaced persons, and assistance in cases of loss of housing or relatives.

In his speech, Oleg Grygoriuk also noted the importance of international cooperation with partners — ITF Seafarers' Trust, the German trade union ver.di, The Seafarers' Charity, and the Swedish trade union SEKO — thanks to which the MTWTU implements social and humanitarian initiatives for Ukrainian seafarers and their families.



## WORKSHOP ON THE MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION, 2006 (MLC, 2006)



The intensive course was held at the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITC-ILO) with the support and assistance of the ITF Seafarers' Trust. The MTWTU was represented by the MTWTU LAW HUB team, which informed about the Union's activities in the field of protecting seafarers' labour rights. Participants discussed issues related to the implementation of the Convention, practical cases of its application, and mechanisms for protecting the seafarers' rights.

The MTWTU took an active part in the development of the text of the Convention in the early 2000s. Currently, the Trade Union is making every effort to ensure the implementation of the Convention's provisions into Ukrainian legislation.



# STANDING WITH SEAFARERS BEYOND BORDERS

## MTWTU CONTINUES SUPPORT ABROAD

The demand for live communication with the Union is growing — and we are responding to it. That is why the MTWTU regularly holds meetings with Ukrainian seafarers in Chisinau.

This is an opportunity to personally communicate with the MTWTU Seafarers' Inspector, receive advice on professional and other relevant issues, apply for assistance, and learn about social projects and support for seafarers and their families abroad.

The Union is always there, protecting rights and providing assistance when it is most needed.



# STRENGTHENING YOUTH MOVEMENT

MTWTU  
YOUTH

## FIRST STEPS IN MARITIME CAREER: MTWTU GREETES CADETS

This September, several leading maritime educational institutions in Ukraine held dedication ceremonies for cadets. The MTWTU representatives greeted the first-year students of the National University “Odesa Maritime Academy” (NUOMA), the Danube



Institute of NUOMA, the Maritime Professional College named after O. Marinesko of NUOMA, and the Chornomorsk Maritime College of the Odesa National Maritime University.



Traditionally, the Union also supported students of the Maritime Transport Professional College of the NUOMA, who became part of the MTWTU community by receiving union membership cards.

Hundreds of new cadets have become part of the Union community: there are many interesting opportunities and achievements ahead of them together with the MTWTU.



# SEAFARERS' WELFARE

## MTWTU HOSTS BUSINESS TRAINING IN ODESA



**Belgium**  
partner in development

The Maritime Union Center in Odesa hosted a three-day training course entitled “Start Your Own Business — Create Your Own Business from Scratch”, organized by the MTWTU as part of an ILO 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.

During the three days, certified ILO SIYB trainers taught business planning and financial management, marketing strategies and entrepreneurial thinking.

The programme included interactive exercises, practical tasks and discussions of real business cases.

The final day was a summary of the training: participants presented their ideas, received feedback from trainers, and outlined the next steps for their implementation.



### FOR MORE DETAILS

+380482 42 99 01

[mtwtu.org.ua](http://mtwtu.org.ua)

[office@mtwtu.org.ua](mailto:office@mtwtu.org.ua)

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