June-August 2026

monthly E-BULLETIN

DEAR FRIENDS!

This summer has been full of events, meetings, and important decisions for the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine. Despite the challenges the maritime industry faces today, we continue to grow, strengthen the labour movement, and work every day to ensure that maritime industry professionals have reliable protection for their labour and social rights.

Key milestones for the Union, which demonstrated the effectiveness of its democratic principles, included the election of the MTWTU Chairman during the 9th Congress of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine, as well as the election of the Chairman of the Local Black Sea Trade Union Organization of Seafarers during its reporting and election conference. Thanks for your trust and support. Continuing on this chosen path, developing and strengthening the union community, is both an honour and a great responsibility.

International cooperation with our partners has also been productive: an ITF delegation visited Ukraine, and a SCOCEEN meeting was held to strengthen social dialogue and protect seafarers' interests. We are consistently working to strengthen our international ties, as it is precisely through partnership and joint decisions that we can more effectively defend the interests of our community's members.

The Union pays special attention to the future of the maritime industry — our young people. Thanks to the MTWTU's initiative and comprehensive organisational support, Ukrainian cadets took the Unified State Qualification Exam (USQE) abroad, enabling them to earn their diplomas and avoid losing years of study. We are convinced that supporting young people — their education, professional growth, and personal development — is an investment in the future of the entire maritime industry. At the same time, we continued implementing social and youth projects to support our members and their families, develop the community, and create new opportunities.

All these events vary in scale and focus. Still, they are united by a single goal: a strong, modern, and effective Union that grows alongside its members, protects their rights, and creates opportunities for the future.

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!

Your sincerely,
Oleg Grygoriuk

Chairman MTWTU
IMO Goodwill Ambassador
in Ukraine (2020-2025)
Vice President of IFSMA

IMPORTANT DECISIONS AND EVENTS

SEAFARERS ELECTED OLEG GRYGORIUK AS CHAIRMAN OF THE LOCAL BLACK SEA TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION OF SEAFARERS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The Local Black Sea Trade Union Organization of Seafarers held its Reporting and Election Conference in Odesa.

Amid complex challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the global shipping crisis, and full-scale war, the Union has served as a source of support and a pillar of strength for Ukrainian seafarers and has actively strengthened its standing within the international community. The LBSTUS and the MTWTU continued to develop, create additional opportunities for cadets, launch new initiatives to support seafarers, and defend their rights both in Ukraine and internationally.

OLEG GRYGORIUK RE-ELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE MTWTU, FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Oleg Grygoriuk's candidacy was unanimously endorsed by delegates to the 9th Congress of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine from the MTWTU's primary trade union organizations.

This decision demonstrates the trust placed in Oleg Grygoriuk, his team, and the direction the Union is taking today. During this time, the Union has not only maintained its active role in defending the rights of seafarers, port workers, and maritime transport workers, but has also strengthened international cooperation, implemented large-scale social projects, expanded support for Union members and their families, and continued to represent the interests of Ukrainian transport workers at the national and international levels.

THE MTWTU MET WITH UKRAINIAN SEAFARERS IN CHISINAU

A meeting was held that brought together Ukrainian seafarers and representatives of the MTWTU to discuss the issues that are most important to the profession today. During the meeting, they discussed the Union's current activities, the results of international efforts to protect the rights of Ukrainian seafarers, the challenges facing the maritime industry today, and pressing issues that arise while working at sea.

THE EVENT WAS SUPPORTED BY THE ITF SEAFARERS' TRUST.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION DIALOGUE

ITF DELEGATION IN UKRAINE

Stephen Cotton, General Secretary of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), and Katie Higginsbottom, Head of the ITF Seafarers' Trust, paid a visit to Ukraine. In Odesa, the delegation visited the MTWTU office, spoke with union members, and, together with MTWTU Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk, saw the aftermath of russian attacks on the city's infrastructure.

The MTWTU has also been collaborating with the ITF Seafarers' Trust for many years; in particular, numerous initiatives have been implemented with the ITF Trust's support, including international meetings with Ukrainian seafarers abroad, support for cadets, charitable programs during the war, assistance to seafarers' families, and social initiatives for Ukraine's maritime community.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

THE INTERNATIONAL

SCOCEEN UNITES

AND THE FUTURE OF THE UKRAINIAN MARITIME INDUSTRY

In Odesa, at the initiative of the MTWTU and with the support of Danish partners from the 3F trade union, a strategic roundtable titled «Ukrainian Transport Workers: International Solidarity, Labour Rights, and Postwar Recovery» was held, bringing together the leadership of the MTWTU, the International Transport Workers' Federation, the ITF Seafarers' Trust, representatives of the International Labour Organization, government authorities, employers, and the Federation of Transport Workers' Unions of Ukraine.

PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED THE CHALLENGES FACED BY MARITIME TRANSPORT WORKERS, AS WELL AS ISSUES RELATED TO LABOUR RIGHTS, HUMAN RESOURCES, AND THE SECTOR'S DEVELOPMENT AMID THE WAR.

MARITIME COMMUNITY STANDS WITH UKRAINE

A MARITIME CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN CHISINAU, BRINGING TOGETHER UKRAINIAN SEAFARERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE MTWTU, THE UNION'S INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS, AND NATIONAL-LEVEL ORGANISATIONS IN UKRAINE.

The conference focused on issues related to the protection of seafarers' labour rights, occupational safety, the development of maritime education, and the future of the profession. Separate discussions addressed the role of international cooperation at a time when the maritime industry is facing several crises simultaneously — the war in Ukraine, security risks in global maritime corridors, and a shortage of personnel in the shipping industry.

FORCES FOR THE FUTURE OF SEAFARERS

The 38th meeting of the Seafarers' Committee of Central and Eastern Europe and Norway (SCOCEEN) took place in Moldova, bringing together representatives of seafarers' unions. The meeting, chaired by Oleg Grigoriuk, MTWTU Chairman, who was elected Chair of SCOCEEN last year, marked another step in fulfilling the Committee's long-standing mission—to strengthen social dialogue and protect the interests of seafarers.

Participants exchanged information on the situation in their respective countries and discussed a wide range of issues affecting seafarers and their families. Particular attention was paid to the humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts, specifically the impact of the war in Ukraine and the escalating situation in the Middle East on the maritime industry and the future of the seafaring profession.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE ON THEIR WAY TO A CAREER

IN CHISINAU AND VARNA, UKRAINIAN CADETS FROM MARITIME EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TOOK THE UNIFIED STATE QUALIFICATION EXAM (USQE).

Another important step for future Ukrainian seafarers was made possible thanks to the persistent stance and actions of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine. Thanks to the coordinated efforts and support of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the State Institution «Scientific and Methodological Center for Higher and Pre-Higher Vocational Education», maritime educational institutions, and the ITF Seafarers' Trust, the Union's initiative was successfully implemented.

UNION SPORT 3.0 BRINGS MARITIME YOUTH TOGETHER

The Izmail International Seamen's Club hosted Union Sport 3.0 — a sporting event for young people in the Danube region, organised by the MTWTU Youth Council with the support of MTWTU Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk.

PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED STUDENTS AND CADETS FROM MARITIME EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WHO ARE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE MTWTU. THE YOUNG PEOPLE COMPETED IN BILLIARDS, SOCIALISED, AND SPENT TIME WITH LIKE-MINDED PEERS.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES IN THE TRADE UNION COMMUNITY

20 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY: SUPPORTING SEAFARERS ACROSS UKRAINE

To mark the 20th anniversary of the Local Black Sea Trade Union Organization of Seafarers, a campaign was held to support union members from various regions of Ukraine.

IN ODESA AND IZMAIL, AID WAS DISTRIBUTED DURING MEETINGS WITH SEAFARERS, AND FOR THOSE IN OTHER CITIES, TARGETED DELIVERIES WERE ORGANIZED. IN THIS WAY, THE ANNIVERSARY BROUGHT SEAFARERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TOGETHER.

SUPPORTING YOUTH — AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine , together with the Welfare Fund of Maritime Transport «MORTRANS», with the support of the Swedish trade union SEKO, is organizing a campaign for cadets and students at maritime educational institutions who come from socially vulnerable groups. The campaign is timed to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the Welfare Fund "MORTRANS".

The charitable initiative plans to reach more than 700 cadets from Odesa, Chornomorsk, and Izmail

START THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR WITH GIFTS AND INSPIRATION

On the eve of Knowledge Day, the Welfare Fund "MORTRANS", together with the MTWTU and the Swedish trade union SEKO, organized an event for seafarers' children.

THE CHILDREN RECEIVED USEFUL GIFTS AHEAD OF THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. WE THANK OUR PARTNERS FOR SUPPORTING THIS INITIATIVE AND HELPING THE FAMILIES OF UKRAINIAN SEAFARERS