



MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E-BULLETIN

JULY 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 — 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 works tirelessly on the international stage, engaging with partners and organizations worldwide to ensure that Ukrainian seafarers have decent working conditions, social guarantees, and reliable protection. We do everything possible to minimize their risks in this challenging profession and to help them look to the future with confidence. The MTWTU never stop address to the global community, raising issues of safety, fair agreements, and the unwavering observance of seafarers' rights.

We 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 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.

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

MTWTU & IMEC IMPROVES WORKING CONDITIONS FOR UKRAINIAN SEAFARERS



As a result of negotiations at the International Bargaining Forum held in Singapore, employers and representatives of maritime unions reached a new IBF CBA that will ensure a 5% increase in seafarers' basic wage during 2026–2027.

The next step after the global IBF arrangements was local negotiations between the MTWTU and the International Maritime Employers' Council (IMEC). Thanks to this cooperation, Ukrainian seafarers will receive not only a basic pay rise in line with the IBF CBA, but also additional improvements in working and living conditions on board ships.

The MTWTU continues to work consistently in this direction, defending the interests of our seafarers and their families.



SEAFARERS SHOULDN'T RISK THEIR LIVES: MTWTU ADDRESSED TO ICS

The MTWTU sent an official address to the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) calling for the protection of Ukrainian seafarers from unreasonable risks in warlike and high-risk areas.

Given the growing danger, the MTWTU issued an official statement to the ICS and its affiliated shipowners' associations, calling on all employers and their associations to follow key principles and avoid transiting through the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden:

- Respect Ukrainian seafarers' right to refuse sailing into declared Warlike Operations or High Risk Areas in accordance with the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC, 2006).

- Carefully review vessel trading patterns when assigning crew, ensuring that seafarers are not deployed on ships scheduled to transit routes where military or piracy-related threats are active or escalating.
- Refrain from pressuring/threatening seafarers who refuse to undertake dangerous voyages due to safety concerns.
- Ensure transparent communication, provide information about risks, and offer appropriate compensation in cases where passage through such areas is unavoidable.



**YOU CAN READ
THE LETTER HERE**

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

MARITIME ENGLISH WITH THE MTWTU

To ensure that seafarers feel confident on board, since 2018, the MTWTU, together with the Japan Seamen's Union, has been actively working to help seafarers and cadets integrate into the global community by providing them with the necessary resources and support to achieve their goals.

The seminar programme is delivered in the most convenient formats — online and offline at the Maritime Union Centre — using modern technologies, text, audio, and video materials, and was developed specifically for maritime professionals. Since the beginning of 2025, nearly 100 union members have been able to join the initiative and start the journey of confident communication in English.



LEGAL SUPPORT FOR UNION MEMBERS

MTWTU LAW HUB — LEGAL PROTECTION ON EVERY STEP



Belgium
partner in development

In response to the challenges seafarers face every day with documents, MTWTU LAW HUB was established within the framework of the MTWTU's implementation of the International Labour Organization'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 — and now for a long time has been working with various seafarers' requests.

The Hub's specialists provide support at all stages of submitting and receiving documents, help to understand the procedural nuances, analyse relevant information and can act as representatives of seafarers in obtaining the necessary documents in Ukraine.

Thanks to the MTWTU LAW HUB, approximately 200 seafarers have already received prompt and high-quality legal assistance, which has enabled them to continue their work and career development.



STANDING WITH SEAFARERS BEYOND BORDERS

Tens of thousands of Ukrainian seafarers are now forced to live abroad — the war has changed their routes.

Since the start of the full-scale invasion, the MTWTU expanded its activities and remained true to its main mission — to stand by Ukrainian seafarers, wherever they may be.

That is why, from the very first days of the war, the Union developed procedures to provide comprehensive assistance to its members who are outside Ukraine.

Relocation abroad is not an obstacle to receiving support — the key is for the seafarer to remain a Union member and submit the relevant request.

2022 - JULY 2025

OVER

3 560

SEAFARERS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS
IN UKRAINE AND ABROAD HAVE RECEIVED
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE







100%

of applications from MTWTU
members were satisfied

75%

of applications were from
seafarers outside Ukraine

THE MOST COMMON CASES OF ASSISTANCE:

34.8%		assistance due to financial hardship
31.1%		compensation for the costs of treatment of seafarers and family members
18.3%		financial aid after shelling, loss of housing, or other war related emergencies
5.7%		assistance for the burial of family members
5.6%		support for young parents
4.5%		other assistance



FOR MORE DETAILS

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