

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



OCTOBER 2018



Dear seafarers!

Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine takes care of you and your families not only when you are ashore, but when you are at the sea. In order to keep you informed about our activities, we designed this monthly E-BULLETIN which guides you through all our achievements and events provided by our Union. Any suggestions and proposal are welcome. Stay connected!

Yours sincerely, Oleg Grygoriuk  
First Vice Chairman  
MTWTU

## UNION WEEK – NEW LEVEL



On the 24-26th of October, the series of trade union awareness-raising seminars called UNION WEEK – NEW LEVEL were held in Odessa. The seminars were organized by the MTWTU with the support from the ITF side.

During these three days of the seminars, more than 150 Ukrainian seafarers attended the sessions on various maritime labor issues. Among the topics discussed were trade union awareness, the work the MTWTU and the ITF perform with regard to labor rights' protection of seafarers, various pre-employment and employment aspects of working at sea, which should not by any means be neglected. The MTWTU's First Vice Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk spoke about the Union's activities for its members, 45,000 Ukrainian seafarers. He elaborated on the protection of seafarers' labor rights, international work and Union's social projects.

ITF Inspector from Estonia Jaanus Kuiv spoke about the ITF Inspectorate's daily work, the ITF CBA's

key provisions and processing of seafarers' claims. The ITF Inspector in Ukraine Nataliya Yefrimenko highlighted the structure and main entitlements of the seafarers under the ILO Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.

The agenda's items of seafarers' taxation and pension provision particularly drew the seafarers' interest, as well as the latest developments in Ukraine's maritime industry.

In addition, every seminar participant could pass virtual reality simulation training, provided by the Optimum Maritime Solutions Company.

Recall that the first UNION WEEK training was held in 2016 by the ITF and MTWTU jointly and gathered about 400 participants. After the first seminar, the Union was requested to organize a follow-up, resulting in another two seminar series in Russian and in English languages. In two years, more than a thousand people participated in the UNION WEEK trainings.

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## OPENING NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Within the 44th ITF Congress in Singapore, there took place meeting between the Union and Unix Line, where the company confirmed its intention to employ Ukrainian cadets and junior officers on board their vessels.

The MTWTU constantly strives to increase the number of jobs for Ukrainian seafarers on board the foreign vessels. The latest illustration of this kind of activity is an Agreement for Cooperation signed with the Kherson State Maritime Academy and the crewing agency Libra, which acts as an employment mediator for Unix Line vessels in our country.

The parties mutually expressed their willingness to cooperate in the training of maritime navigation specialists. And the agreement itself reiterates the practical and theoretical training of the K SMA cadets, approved by the Union, with their further employment to Unix Line vessels, mediated by Libra. All the cadets, selected by the Academy for maritime practice, have to be members of the MTWTU, which is to exercise their labor and socio-economic rights' protection.

“Today, the Union is doing a lot of work aimed at improving the process of education and training, as well as at improving the competitiveness of Ukrainian seafarers in the maritime labor market. We look forward to see the results of our work – the new Ukrainian employees on board the Unix Line ships” – said Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU First Vice Chairman



## FIGHT AGAINST CRIMINALIZATION OF UKRAINIAN SEAFARERS



Criminalization of seafarers is a major problem that threatens not only Ukrainian, but all the global seafarers. To address the problem, the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine coordinated its actions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and presented the project aimed at preventing seafarers' involvement in illegal activities at sea, as well as at ensuring protection of seafarers' rights to fair treatment during criminal proceedings, pre-trial detention and in penitentiary institutions.

The present situation was a subject to discussion during the conference in Kiev that took place on October 9 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. There was held a presentation of the project on preventing seafarers' involvement in illegal activities at sea, aimed at ensuring protection of seafarers' rights to fair treatment during criminal proceedings, pre-trial detention and in penitentiary institutions.

The conference was organized jointly by the MFA's Department of Consular Service and the MTWTU and gathered together the representatives of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, the National Police of Ukraine, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the UN office on Drugs and Crime, Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine, as well as consular officers and representatives of the embassies of Greece, Georgia, Italy, Great Britain, and the United States of America.

Within the framework of the project, the MFA and the MTWTU introduced a proposed schedule of activities focused on two main objectives: to improve legal protection for arrested seafarers and to prevent seafarers' further involvement in criminal offenses.

The project is also aimed at implementing a complex of activities with the purpose of strengthening bilateral cooperation between the authorized bodies of Ukraine and the relevant authorities of those countries where the seafarers were detained.

The project is timely and relevant not only for Ukrainian seafarers, but for all the global mariners. This was proved by the fact that it gained support from the four United Nations agencies: the International Maritime Organization, the International Labor Organization, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The project is also fully supported by the International Transport Workers' Federation and trade unions of various countries of the world.

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## MTWTU VISITED MV FEDERAL TAKASE



When the ships, covered by the MTWTU CBA or the CBA of any ITF union, bound with us by the Memorandum, call Ukrainian ports, then the MTWTU visits our crew members onboard, providing them with fresh issues of the Maritime Magazine and the Union's publications, memorable souvenirs and good news from home.

Thus, in the first days of October, the MTWTU representatives visited the bulk carrier FEDERAL TAKASE (IMO 9658989, flag of the Marshall Islands) in the port of Odessa. The vessel is covered by the IBF CBA of the Seafarers' International Seafarers' Union of North America (SIUNA). Recall that in January 2017, the MTWTU and SIUNA signed the Memorandum, providing all Ukrainians working under the SIUNA CBA's with MTWTU membership coverage. The same is with regard to FEDERAL TAKASE crew – all the officers are Ukrainian seafarers, entitled to enjoy the MTWTU membership as the organization's full members.

The seafarers enjoyed the Union's visit – those crew members who needed to refresh their Membership Cards had a chance to do it right on board. Much interest caused fresh Union publications like the Medical Handbook for seafarers, issued with the support from the ITF side. For some seafarers the contracts are coming to an end, and they are very welcome to the Union's office once back home.



## ADVENTURES WITH THE UNION



The MTWTU once again invited its members' children to be among the first viewers of the new movie called Louis and The Aliens.

In this animated adventure comedy, an 11-year-old boy makes friends with three lovable aliens who crash their ship into his house. Traditionally, the Union's premier screenings give seafarers an amazing opportunity to spend time with their families and meet their colleagues and friends.

## MTWTU SUPPORTS YOUNG ATHLETES



On October 7, the tournament in contact karate, organized by OOKAMI-CAS DOJO, was held in Odessa.

About 400 athletes of different weight and age categories from almost all regions of Ukraine took part in the tournament.

Among the athletes were the children of seafarers, members of the MTWTU.

To hold the event at a decent level, the public organization asked for help from the MTWTU and the Welfare fund "MORTRANS".

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