

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

APRIL 2024

## 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

## SUPPORT FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS OF THE KSMA

On April 3, Oleg Grygoriuk, Chairman of the MTWTU, IMO Goodwill Maritime Ambassador in Ukraine, shared information about the Union's work and current projects during a meeting with first-year students of the Kherson State Maritime Academy.

Social assistance was also provided to first-year students of the KSMA residing in the dormitory. Thanks to the MTWTU with the support of the ITF-ETF Solidarity Fund, they received food sets.



## MTWTU AT THE OPEN DOORS' DAY AT THE ODESA MARITIME ACADEMY

On April 6, the MTWTU team visited the Open Doors' Day at the National University "Odesa Maritime Academy" to share our activities with future cadets and their parents.

It was a great opportunity to tell them about the benefits of union membership, our support programs, professional development opportunities, and the protection of maritime industry workers' rights.



## MARITIME UNION CENTER'S ADVANCED TRAINING

First-year students of the Kherson State Maritime Academy continue their education at the Maritime Union Center. Specialized lectures and practical training sessions are conducted here using virtual reality simulators to familiarize students with ship operations.

Additionally, instructors from KSMA conducted research on psychophysiological indicators during tasks performed on virtual equipment. The results of these studies will help develop effective strategies for responding to stressful situations and identify systemic human errors during practical training sessions for their elimination.





## **KSMA CADETS AT 'THE SPIRIT OF THE SEAS' SPORTS FESTIVAL**

With the support of the MTWTU and the ITF Seafarers' Trust, first-year cadets of the Kherson State Maritime Academy, studying at the Lithuanian Maritime Academy, took part in the international sports festival "The Spirit of the Seas". This event gave them the opportunity to engage in various activities and improve their teamwork skills.

It is important to note that for the second time MTWTU and the ITF Seafarers' Trust are implementing a joint project, thanks to which KSMA students have the chance to study in parallel at the LMA. Upon graduation, they will receive two diplomas.



# **SEAFARERS' WELFARE**

## **MTWTU AND ITF-ETF SOLIDARITY FUND PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SUPPORT**

Initiated by Oleg Grygoriuk, the Chairman of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine and the Chairman of the ITF-ETF Solidarity Fund's Advisory Board, Ukrainian transport workers have called on international colleagues not to cease their solidarity support.



The assistance was provided in the form of essential items, food products, hygiene, and children's kits, heaters, generators, flashlights, portable chargers, solar panels, first aid kits, reflective vests, sleeping bags, and propane camping stoves. These goods helped port workers to continue uninterrupted work; students, and cadets to continue their education without interruption, and benefited thousands of MTWTU members.

Additionally, MTWTU, together with the Local Trade Union Organization of the Kherson State Maritime Academy, showed compassion towards the academy staff who remained living and working in Kherson, supporting them with food sets.



## UPDATED UNION MEDICAL HANDBOOK

With support from the ITF Seafarers' Trust, the Medical Handbook on general information about emergency conditions, diseases, and principles of providing first aid has been updated.

Developed in collaboration with the "Ukrainian Research Institute of Transport Medicine", the handbook has been enriched with a new section on tactical medicine, paramedical assistance, and self-help and mutual assistance in combat conditions. The handbook, already distributed among union members, is a valuable resource containing practical advice and instructions that can save lives in critical situations, which is essential in modern realities.





# INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL COOPERATION

## WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK

In honor of World Day for Safety and Health at Work, the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine held a meeting of authorized representatives on labor protection issues. As part of the implementation of a union project with the Danish 3F Trade Union, the MTWTU has established a Labor Protection Representation.

Currently, the MTWTU has 21 representatives at workplaces of enterprises, organizations, and institutions of maritime transport. Our Trade Union strives to ensure high safety standards for all maritime transport workers, as the health of our union members is one of the main priorities in our work.



## SOLIDARITY WITH NO BORDERS: EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS SUPPORT UKRAINE

Also in April, the MTWTU took part in a trade union summit in support of Ukraine, organized by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). The summit took place on 22-23 April in Lublin, Poland, and brought together around 120 representatives from different trade unions across Europe.

Participants of the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) met with Ukrainian transport unions to discuss industry issues, support during wartime, and Ukraine's plans for European integration.

Livia Spera, General Secretary, emphasized the important role of Ukrainian unions and called for expanding their capabilities through cooperation with the ETF and transnational company networks.

The ETF and Ukrainian unions are focused on protecting workers' rights and developing an action plan to support their Ukrainian colleagues.



### FOR MORE DETAILS

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