

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

JUNE 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*



# INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL COOPERATION

## UKRAINIAN MARITIME FORUM IN LONDON



On June 14, 2024, the Ukrainian Maritime Forum was held in London. It was organized by the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine with the support of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and the State Service for Maritime, Inland Waterway Transport and Shipping of Ukraine.

The event brought together about one hundred participants from the global maritime industry, including officials from the ITF, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and representatives from leading shipowners, maritime educational institutions, seafarers' unions, and charitable organizations.

The main topic was "Ukrainian Seafarers – your professional partners for safe navigation".

Arsenio Dominguez, IMO Secretary-General, and Gilbert F. Houngbo, ILO Director-General, strongly supported Ukrainian seafarers and emphasized the importance of international solidarity and unity in these challenging times.





**“I continue to be inspired by the dedication and resilience of seafarers. Their work is crucial for the global economy, and we must continue to promote their rights and well-being,” Arsenio Dominguez said.**

And in return, Gilbert F. Hongbo called for international solidarity and support for Ukraine, emphasizing the importance of unity in these difficult times, and expressed deep concern for workers and communities affected by the ongoing conflict.

Stephen Cotton, ITF General Secretary, highlighted the bravery and contributions of Ukrainian seafarers, calling for continued support and recognition:

**“This Forum has provided an important discussion on how we can protect our industry and secure Ukraine’s future after this terrible conflict. Our support goes out to all our friends in Ukraine, who have shown incredible bravery. The contribution of Ukrainian seafarers deserves our respect and recognition”.**

Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU Chairman, thanked international partners for their unwavering support, emphasizing its importance for the stability and sustainability of Ukraine’s maritime sector. He expressed deep gratitude for every gesture of solidarity, believing that continued support would achieve greater success:

**“I feel deeply grateful for every gesture of support, every kind word, and every action aimed at helping our seafarers and maritime transport workers. Your solidarity gives us strength and faith in the future. I believe that if we can withstand these difficult times, we will win. Help us, support us, and together we will achieve even greater success”.**

PROMOTIONAL SITE



PROMOTIONAL BOOKLET





# NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION MEMBERS

## SIGNIFICANT MEMORANDUM SIGNED AT UKRAINIAN MARITIME FORUM

During the Ukrainian Maritime Forum, the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine and the State Service for Maritime, Inland Waterway Transport and Shipping of Ukraine signed a Memorandum of Cooperation.

This agreement aims to protect the labor and social rights of Ukrainian maritime workers and develop opportunities for acquiring professional competencies in line with international conventions.

The Memorandum also focuses on assisting Ukrainian seafarers in crises, ensuring their rights, safety, and professional growth.



**“The Memorandum is a significant step for Ukraine’s maritime industry, highlighting the commitment of government agencies and trade unions to work together for common goals and decent working conditions for all seafarers,” said Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU Chairman.**

## MTWTU AND IMAREST: MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

Also, the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine and the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation. The MTWTU and the IMarEST have entered into a partnership to enhance maritime education and professional standards, fostering international knowledge exchange. Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU Chairman, noted the potential for new projects and achievements resulting from this collaboration.



## MTWTU IN THE ROMANIAN PARLIAMENT

Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU Chairman, spoke at the Romanian Parliament during the Seafarers Committee of Central, Eastern Europe, and Norway (SCOCEEN) meeting, which included regional trade unions and the Norwegian Shipowners' Association. Oleg Grygoriuk emphasized the critical role of Ukrainian seafarers and the importance of fair working conditions. Additionally, the meeting celebrated 30 years of productive social dialogue between employers and trade unions.



## SEAFARERS' SOCIAL LIFE

### MTWTU MEETS WITH SEAFARERS IN ROMANIA

As part of a joint project between the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine and the ITF Seafarers' Trust, MTWTU organized the first meeting with Ukrainian seafarers in Romania. MTWTU initiated this project to support seafarers wherever they are, and we are grateful for the support received.

The event covered the trade union's work during the war, support for those stranded in Ukraine, and those forced to leave the country. Union experts provided legal consultations and answered common questions about employment, employment contracts, and life on board ships.



Special attention was given to mental health issues, which are particularly relevant for Ukrainians today. We will continue to expand our support and provide necessary assistance to all Ukrainian seafarers, regardless of their location.



# YOUTH-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES

## OPEN DOORS' DAY AT THE MARITIME UNION CENTER

On June 8, the Maritime Union Center hosted an Open Doors' Day for the Kherson State Maritime Academy. Prospective students learned about the joint program with the Lithuanian Maritime Academy, thanks to which, 50 cadets have continued their studies abroad and earned bachelor's degrees. This year, ten more sponsored spots were provided. This project, for children from vulnerable social groups, military families, and active conflict zones, will continue next year due to the cadets' high performance.



## ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE AT CURONIAN SPIT

On June 3, cadets from the Kherson State Maritime Academy, studying under the dual degree program at the Lithuanian Maritime Academy, participated in an environmental campaign at the Curonian Spit.

Supported by the MTWTU and ITF Seafarers' Trust, the cadets gained invaluable experience in environmental conservation, learning to care for the surroundings and showing genuine concern for our planet. This event highlighted the importance of ecological awareness and the active involvement of youth in protecting the environment.



## SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR FOR CADETS

The ITF Seafarers' Trust continued its project for Kherson State Maritime Academy cadets, who, supported by the MTWTU, completed their first year at the Lithuanian Maritime Academy. Ukrainian cadets demonstrated high levels of preparedness and engagement in the educational process, finishing the year with excellent grades and participating actively in sports and social events.



Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU Chairman, praised their achievements, encouraging them to continue learning and striving for new heights. Katie Higginbottom, Head of the ITF Seafarers' Trust, also expressed her pride in the cadets' adaptability and success.

## MEETING WITH CADETS

Additionally, Katie Higginbottom met with ten cadets, congratulating them on completing their first year at the Lithuanian Maritime Academy. This achievement was made possible by the collaboration between the MTWTU and the ITF Seafarers' Trust. The academy's website provides detailed admission conditions, encouraging prospective students to join this remarkable project.



## DUAL DEGREE GRADUATION CEREMONY

On June 21, a graduation ceremony was held for four of the fifty cadets who completed their studies at both the Lithuanian Maritime Academy and the Kherson State Maritime Academy.

The project once again proved that anything is possible with the Trade Union's support.



### FOR MORE DETAILS

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