

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



DECEMBER 2024

For much of the world, December is a time of reflection and celebration. For Ukraine, however, it is also a month of resilience, strength, and unwavering faith in a brighter future. Despite the ongoing conflict and uncertainty, the holiday season brought moments of unity and hope, highlighting the enduring spirit of our people.

As we welcome 2025, we renew our determination to support our members and their families. The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine (MTWTU) celebrated the holidays by bringing warmth and care to its members. Ukrainian seafarers received gifts for Saint Nicholas Day and Christmas, made possible by the solidarity of international partners. Children of union members enjoyed festive events, sweet treats, and unforgettable moments, even during these challenging times.

In December, we also focused on inspiring and supporting young maritime professionals. Through leadership training, educational initiatives, and international collaboration, MTWTU continued to build a strong future for Ukraine's maritime community. Partnerships with global organizations provided meaningful opportunities and steadfast support to cadets, seafarers, and their families.

As we look ahead to 2025, we remain dedicated to our mission of advocacy, solidarity, and care. Together, we will face challenges with resilience and unity, fueled by hope for peace and prosperity in the year to come.

Your sincerely,
Oleg Grygoriuk
Chairman MTWTU,
IMO Goodwill Ambassador in Ukraine,
Vice President of IFSMA



DISCOVERING THE TRADE UNION FAMILY

First-year cadets from the National University Odesa Maritime Academy learned about MTWTU's role in protecting workers' rights and fostering both professional and personal growth. MTWTU Chairman, Oleg Grygoriuk, emphasized the MTWTU's dedication to supporting future seafarers and ensuring their success in the maritime industry.



MTWTU SHAPES FUTURE TRADE UNION LEADERS

In partnership with the Danish 3F Trade Union, MTWTU hosted a leadership training event for young specialists.

The program focused on engaging youth, motivating them effectively, and encouraging active participation in union activities. Trainer Vitalii Kopysh stressed the importance of building a robust youth foundation, while Oleg Grygoriuk highlighted the critical role young people play in shaping Ukraine's future and the maritime industry.



ETF WINTER SCHOOL

MTWTU Youth joined over 25 young transport workers from across Europe at the ETF Winter School. Participants explored ways to create a modern, fair, and inclusive transport sector that prioritizes safety and equality.

Through discussions, training sessions, and an interactive game on countering far-right propaganda, the group focused on:

- Modernizing unions to attract youth and drive meaningful change.
- Combating far-right movements and misinformation to protect democracy.
- Promoting workplace diversity to ensure everyone feels valued, regardless of background or beliefs.

MTWTU Youth shared their wartime experiences, highlighting efforts to support members and strengthen the youth movement. Together, young transport workers are building a future where unions remain strong, workers' rights are protected, and youth voices influence decisions.



INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL COOPERATION

BRIDGING GENERATIONS

During a visit to Chornomorsk, MTWTU Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk and Odessa Shipmasters' Association President Stanislav Nezavitin discussed key maritime industry challenges. They emphasized the importance of intergenerational dialogue in advancing the sector and ensuring unified advocacy for maritime professionals.



MTWTU'S EFFORTS FOR THE RATIFICATION OF MLC, 2006 BY UKRAINE

In collaboration with the Danish 3F Trade Union and the International Labour Organization (ILO), MTWTU held a roundtable on implementing the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC, 2006) to safeguard Ukrainian seafarers' rights.

MTWTU has actively contributed to the Convention's development since the early 2000s, incorporating its principles into Ukrainian law even before formal adoption. Despite current challenges, MTWTU advocates for swift ratification, demonstrating Ukraine's dedication to its seafarers' well-being.

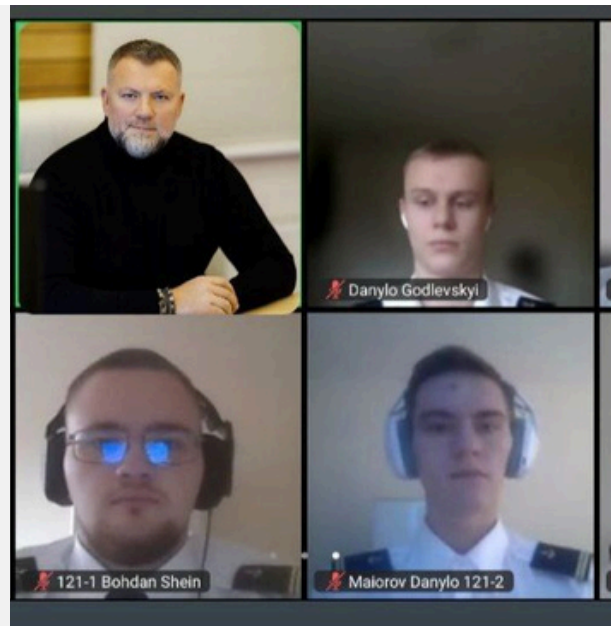
Key topics included the Convention's provisions, 2014 amendments, and guidelines on fair treatment of detained seafarers.



EXMAR AND MTWTU

MTWTU facilitated a meeting between EXMAR and cadets from Kherson State Maritime Academy's dual-degree program with the Lithuanian Maritime Academy. Ten cadets explored internship opportunities and employment requirements.

Oleg Grygoriuk highlighted EXMAR's preference for Ukrainian seafarers, while Dmitriy Ivanov, Head of Crewing at EXMAR SHIP MANAGEMENT, underscored the company's expertise, particularly in LNG transportation.



MTWTU'S HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

SAINT NICHOLAS DAY GIFTS FROM MTWTU AND ITF-ETF SOLIDARITY FUND

Over 250 seafarers in Odesa and across Ukraine received holiday gifts, thanks to the support of the ITF and ETF. Cadets and students who are MTWTU members also received festive packages.

“We strive to inspire and support our members, whose energy and ideas drive us forward”, said MTWTU Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk.



BRINGING JOY TO CHILDREN OF MTWTU MEMBERS

Continuing a cherished tradition, MTWTU delighted nearly 200 children from member families in the Danube region with sweet treats and festive celebrations at the Izmil International Seamen's Club.

“Kindness and support remain central to our values. Even during hard times, we ensure children feel the magic of the holidays”, noted Oleg Grygoriu



CADETS OF KSMA RECEIVE HOLIDAY GIFTS

Kherson State Maritime Academy cadets, also studying at the Lithuanian Maritime Academy through MTWTU and Norwegian shipowner Wilson, received holiday greetings and gifts, marking the continuation of this successful partnership.



WINTER ADVENTURES WITH MTWTU

The exhibit “Winter Journey to the Ice Age,” supported by MTWTU and Wilson, brought joy and an unforgettable experience. Children explored the Ice Age era and shared moments of laughter, reminding everyone of the power of hope and unity, even during challenging times.



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