



MARINE TRANSPORT WORKER'S TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E - BULLETIN

Dear All!

MARCH-APRIL 2020

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine is always there to take care about its members – seafarers and their families. The Union extends its social coverage to seafarers, both when they are at sea and ashore. In order to keep you informed of our activities, we have developed this monthly E-BULLETIN, aimed to guide you through our most recent and significant achievements and activities, provided by our Union. Any suggestions and proposal are very welcome. Stay tuned for more information!

Last month has been a challenging one for our seafarers, for the Union and for the industry as a whole. In these difficult times, the MTWTU team continues working remotely, striving to do its best for the Ukrainian seafarers and their families. Significant efforts are focused on keeping them abreast of the most crucial industry developments concerning the Ukrainian seafarers and their employment onboard the foreign-flagged ships worldwide during COVID-19 crisis. Therefore, a 24/7 COVID-19 hotline +380955507555 has been established within the MTWTU to respond to the queries of concern, coming from seafarers and their families. The hotline operates on the basis of the MTWTU Maritime Information Center, supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. Furthermore, all Ukrainian seafarers-MTWTU members, are entitled to apply for financial assistance from the Union, if they are unable to get employment onboard the ship for more than 6 months from the end of last contract, as well as if they are facing employment delays due to COVID-19 quarantine measures and travel restrictions.

Your sincerely, Oleg Grygoriuk
First Vice Chairman MTWTU
Vice President IFSMA,
Goodwill Maritime Ambassador IMO



MTWTU COVID-19 DIGEST

On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared coronavirus disease (COVID-19) a worldwide pandemic, and Ukrainian government responded with strict quarantine measures imposed across our country.

Since then, being unable to arrange public event gatherings, the Union never stopped caring about its members and their families.

During the last two months, we strived to do our best to address the most acute challenges the global maritime shipping is facing today in order to support our members, both stranded at sea and on shore due to COVID-19 restrictions and difficulties.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE:

OFFICIAL LETTERS

The Union forwarded a number of official letters to the Government of Ukraine with an intention to attract their attention to the vulnerable category of transport workers – seafarers in order to help them overcome the COVID-19 crisis.

- The letter to the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine and the State Service of Sea and River Transport of Ukraine with a request to draft

appropriate regulations to prolong the validity period of certificates under the STCW Convention for those Ukrainian seafarers, stranded onboard the vessels due to COVID-19 travel restrictions;

- The letter to the President and the Prime Minister of Ukraine asking to consider the joint appeal of the International Chamber of Shipping and the International Transport Workers' Federation, calling to recognize the global seafarers as key workers.

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The letter also encouraged to take the appropriate measures aimed at maintaining Ukraine's leading position in the maritime labor market;

- The letter to the President, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Head of the State Border Service of Ukraine with a request to ensure that all the necessary measures are taken to implement the recommendations of international organizations in order to facilitate the movement of seafarers from and to the ship. This includes the possibility to carry out crew changes, the development of exceptional rules for movement across the state border of Ukraine and the opening of irregular transportations for crews during the period of restrictions associated with overcoming the pandemic without jeopardizing efforts aimed at preventing the spread of acute respiratory disease COVID-19;

- The letter to the President and the Prime Minister of Ukraine with a request to consider the possibility of introducing a set of measures:
 - to provide opportunities for distance training (retraining) of seafarers by approved educational institutions;
 - to ensure issuance of qualification documents and Seaman's books to seafarers;
 - to organize a 'green transit corridor' for the movement of Ukrainian seafarers within the territory of the European Union and the Republic of Turkey;
 - to facilitate the replacement of ship crews in Ukrainian sea ports.

WELFARE ASSISTANCE

Since the beginning of COVID-19 crisis, the MTWTU-established Welfare Fund of Maritime Transport 'MORTRANS' has successfully carried out the following welfare campaigns:

- The WF 'MORTRANS' acquainted disinfection means, hygiene supplies and personal protective equipment for Ukrainian naval seafarers of the Navy Forces of Ukraine;



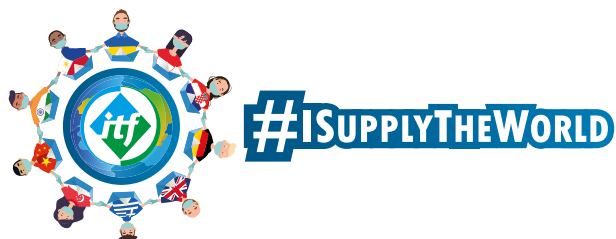
- The WF 'MORTRANS' purchased personal protective equipment for the medical personnel of the number of medical facilities of Ukraine;



- The MTWTU and the WF 'MORTRANS' paid a visit to the maritime transport veterans to distribute food kits and medical protective equipment.






#ISUPPLYTHEWORLD CAMPAIGN BY THE MTWTU HIGHLIGHTS KEY ROLE OF MARITIME WORKERS



A campaign from the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine (MTWTU), supported by the ITF and the International Maritime Employers' Council (IMEC), is highlighting the key role of maritime workers to keep the world supplied with essentials during the Covid-19 crisis.

"It's crucial to show how global maritime transport workers are at the forefront of the epidemic in terms of global trade, how greatly the international community appreciates their labour and how important their job is for every each city, each family and each person in the world," - Oleg Grigoryuk, the MTWTU's First Vice Chairman, said.

We highly encourage maritime workers to photograph themselves with a campaign poster and post on social media with the hashtag #ISupplyTheWorld OR send it to us via:

-  www.facebook.com/MTWTU
-  www.instagram.com/mtwtu_itf_ukraine
-  office@mtwtu.org.ua



TRAINING ON MLC, 2006

The International Labor Organization intends to receive 100 ratifications of its milestone Maritime Labor Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006), to date ratified by 96 ILO member states.

Unfortunately, Ukraine still remains off the team, without ratifying the Convention. However, as lots of Ukrainian seafarers work onboard the foreign-flagged ships, it is essential for them to know and apply the provisions of MLC, 2006. This is due to the fact that the MLC establishes and mandates a number of working and living standards onboard the ships, medical care, working hours and wages, inter alia.

Following that, the Maritime Union Centre once again hosted an MTWTU-arranged seminar for seafarers on 'MLC, 2006: Practical Application for Seafarers'.

At the seminar, Sergey Kazantsev, the MTWTU Advisor to the Chairman and Certified Trainer on MLC, helped the participants understand the main provisions of the Convention and its application to resolve labor disputes.



CULINARY WORKSHOP

Another good tradition within the MTWTU, dedicated to the International Women's Day, is the Union-arranged culinary workshops for the waves of seafarers, registered with us. Each year, more and more participants register for these events: this March, 40 ladies learnt to cook three types of tartares.

The cooking secrets were shared by the chef, showman and host Roman Sardaryan and Vitaliy Kiper, chef, brand chef and judge of the all-Ukrainian culinary competitions. Thanks to the participants of the event for their feedback and good wishes to the Trade Union.



CONGRATULATING WOMEN-SEAFARERS

Today, more and more women get engaged in maritime industry as not only Cooks, Messmen or Stewardesses, but as Captains, their Mates and even Engineers.

Thanks to the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) policy on combating gender inequality, more and more women become essential crew members despite any prejudice. The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine unites about 320 women, who have devoted their lives to the sea. And on the eve of the International Women's Day, the Union traditionally congratulates female seafarers on the occasion of this spring holiday.

March of 2020 was no exception: female seafarers, visiting the Union office, received memorable gifts from the MTWTU and could take a picture in the especially decorated spring photo zone.



MOVIE PREMIERE – “ONWARD”

