



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

Dear All!

MAY 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 months have been challenging for our seafarers, for the Union and for the industry as a whole. In these difficult times, the MTWTU team never stopped working, striving to do its best for the Ukrainian seafarers and their families. Significant efforts are still 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. 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



## 167 UKRAINIAN SEAFARERS RETURNED HOME

On May 8, the Ukrainian crew of the mv MEIN SCHIFF 3 of TUI Cruises, returned to Ukraine. The MTWTU representatives met the seafarers in Kiev Boryspil International Airport. After the company-arranged charter flight to Kiev, 167 seafarers went to their home city Odessa by bus.

In early May, the ITF Inspector in Germany Hamani Amadou, contacted the MTWTU to inform of more than 170 Ukrainian seafarers stranded onboard the cruise ship MEIN SCHIFF 3 (9641730, MLT). The seafarers required immediate assistance with repatriation arrangements. The MTWTU First Vice Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk addressed the German trade union ver.di and the company's representatives, as well as the haulage company to follow up on the transferring of Ukrainians to Odessa.

All Ukrainian seafarers are members of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine as the MEIN SCHIFF 3 vessel is covered by the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) of the ver.di trade union. Under the respective Memorandum of Understanding

between the MTWTU and ver.di, all Ukrainian seafarers working onboard the ships covered by ver.di CBAs, are members of the MTWTU.



## ASSISTING UKRAINIAN CADETS AND YOUNG OFFICERS

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine, representing the interests of 12,000 Ukrainian maritime cadets and students among its 80,000 total membership, has been receiving a number of appeals

[www.mtwtu.org.ua](http://www.mtwtu.org.ua)  
[office@mtwtu.org.ua](mailto:office@mtwtu.org.ua)  
+380482429901  
[www.facebook.com/MTWTU](https://www.facebook.com/MTWTU)

from those cadets and young officers who are unable to be repatriated before their examinations. In its appeal of May 25, 2020, the MTWTU urged the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine to take all possible measures to postpone or reschedule the state final exams for graduate cadets of maritime educational institutions, who are currently employed on board ships and are deprived of an opportunity to come home on time for the exams.

Also, the MTWTU appealed to the shipowners, employing Ukrainian cadets and young officers, with kind request to consider the possibility of repatriation of seafarers, currently employed onboard in the capacity of Engine and Deck Cadets, who are in urgent need to return home for the exams in their educational institutions and whose positions are excluded from the ship's Minimum Safe Manning.

Also, provided that some maritime educational institutions have introduced the remote access to exams, not requiring the personal presence of the cadets in the educational facility, we asked the shipowners to make sure that the cadets on board their ships have an access to the Internet and are released from work for the exam session (study), as per the Collective Bargaining Agreements signed.

## UNION WORKS WITH SEAFARERS ONLINE

Under the COVID-19 restrictions, the educative seminars for seafarers have been transferred to the online format. There took place two online meetings with the Key4Mate project founder Yevgen Bogachenko and the MTWTU First Vice Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk. The first meeting brought together about 90 people, who received information on maritime industry developments under COVID-19, presented by Oleg Grygoriuk, as well as on the Union's efforts to support seafarers in given circumstances.

Another online meeting in Key4mate framework with Oleg Grygoriuk was dedicated to crew changes and certification during the COVID-19 crisis. The webinar participants got acquainted with the current situation in the global maritime industry, discussed the options and

conditions for crew changes, self-isolation regime, as well as the issues of seafarers' certification to date. Oleg Grygoriuk also spoke of the Union's interaction with sectoral authorities to address the existing challenges, and its actions during the pandemic in support of its members-seafarers.

Another Union-arranged online seminar addressed the subject of "Income Taxation in Ukraine: What Seafarers Need to Know". The topic is always relevant and encourages high interest among seafarers: about 120 people joined the broadcast. Legal Advisor to the MTWTU Chairman Julia Pelykh explained the terms, declaring procedure and matter of paying taxes on foreign income in 2020. Also, Julia spoke about the liability for tax laws violation, where the data on seafarers' incomes is placed and who can access it, and the new rules of financial monitoring and their possible impact on seafarers.





## STOP COVID-19: LARGE-SCALE WELFARE CAMPAIGN FOR SEAFARERS AND DOCKERS

Thanks to support of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and the ITF Seafarers' Trust, the Welfare Fund of Maritime Transport "MORTRANS" and the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine carry out a large-scale campaign, distributing sets of personal protective equipment essentials to combat the virus. The campaign is held among seafarers and port workers, the MTWTU members, and their families. In total, the campaign will embrace about two thousand seafarers and dockers.

One of the first campaign participants were the MTWTU seafarers, who are now going to replace their colleagues onboard the ships. Representatives of the WF "MORTRANS" and the Trade Union handed the sets of PPE over to seafarers right before their voyages to help them during their travels and onboard.

Every day, seafarers and their families come to the MTWTU office to receive the sets. The campaign covers not only Odessa, but other cities of Ukraine. Thus, seafarers living in Izmail have already received personal protective equipment sets. Further plans are to get sets delivered and distributed in Kiev, Nikolaev, Kherson, Berdyansk and Mariupol. Moreover, the campaign has already been carried

out for the employees of the Reni and the Izmail Commercial Sea Ports, where the MTWTU Local Trade Union Organizations operate.



## MARITIME INFORMATION CENTER

The MTWTU Maritime Information Center (supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine) during the COVID-19 pandemic has become a **24/7**

HOTLINE +380955507555

in order to respond to the queries of concern, coming from seafarers and their families.

**WE ARE PLEASED TO SUBMIT THE STATISTICS OF THE MARITIME INFORMATION CENTER WORK SINCE THE QUARANTINE HAS BEGUN.**

