

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

APRIL 2025



## DEAR ALL!

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine continues its mission to support and protect Ukrainian seafarers, regardless of distance, regardless of time, despite all the destructive consequences of the war. We never stop in our striving to create new opportunities for our members, expanding the horizons of international cooperation and strengthening union unity around the world.

The Union is constantly looking for new ways to improve social support so that our members can easily resolve all their issues. We have always been active in supporting the youth trade union movement, helping cadets and students to adapt to professional life. Educational events, numerous meetings, communication with top experts and leaders of the maritime industry — all this our youth continues to learn together with the MTWTU.

The MTWTU remains a dedicated, reliable and unbreakable support for the Ukrainian maritime community. Only by strengthening our joint efforts, taking steps for development together, will we be able to confidently move forward towards a sustainable maritime industry. Together we are stronger!

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



# FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS

## MTWTU PROPOSALS APPROVED BY IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE

The IMO Legal Committee, at its 112th session held on March 24-28, approved the proposals by MTWTU and the Embassy of Ukraine in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland aimed at preventing abandonment of seafarers.



The MTWTU, in cooperation with the Embassy, analysed all cases of abandonment of Ukrainian seafarers, and as a result, a document was submitted to the IMO Legal Committee with specific proposals aimed at preventing abandonment, including:

- To supplement the standard form of the report on the inspection of the ship by the port state control with data on documentary evidence of the shipowner's financial liability in case of abandonment;
- Conduct a concentrated campaign to inspect ships for the availability of financial security providers for shipowner's liability;
- To implement the IMO/ILO Guidelines on how to deal with seafarers abandonment cases into the national legislation of Member States.

At the national level, the MTWTU also addressed the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and the State Service for Maritime, Inland Waterway Transport and Shipping of Ukraine with a proposal to establish a joint workgroup to develop a procedure for interaction between the competent state authorities to provide assistance to seafarers in crisis situations, including cases of abandonment.



# STRENGTHENING YOUTH MOVEMENT

## DAY WITH THE UNION FOR YOUTH

The MTWTU visited the students of the Maritime Transport Professional College of the National University “Odessa Maritime Academy”.

The young specialists got acquainted with the MTWTU activities, learned about seafarers’ rights and opportunities offered by the Trade Union. The youth also took part in the MTWTU Youth UNION-QUIZ, an interactive game that tested their knowledge of the maritime industry, international standards and the trade union movement.

More than 200 students received useful information on how the MTWTU supports seafarers at all stages of their careers — from training to going on board and protecting their labour rights.



## LEISURE FOR CADETS IN LITHUANIA

The cadets of Kherson State Maritime Academy, who are studying in Lithuania thanks to the sponsorship project of the MTWTU, ITF Seafarers’ Trust and Wilson Company, spent an unforgettable evening in the world of theatre.

They attended the comedy performance ‘Be Happy’ performed by the actors of the Odesa State Theatre: live art, bright acting and a warm atmosphere in the hall brought a lot of sincere smiles and a good mood.



## SAIL SMART: MTWTU YOUTH LEARNED HOW TO PROTECT PERSONAL DATA

In modern times, personal data is becoming increasingly vulnerable, and in the context of martial law, the risks to privacy are only growing. That is why the MTWTU Youth Council, together with the IMO Goodwill Maritime Ambassador in Ukraine and with the support of the Representative of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine's Commissioner for Human Rights in the Odesa region, held a meeting as part of the initiative Sail Smart: Valuable Insights — "It's not just "data". It's you".

Regional Coordinator Serhii Fisiukov told the MTWTU youth how to protect their personal data from leaks, why it is important to maintain digital hygiene and how our rights change in wartime. The participants received useful advice and real-life examples to help them avoid threats in the digital space.





## STARTING CAREER WITH THE UNION

One of the main areas of work with youth is the MTWTU's seminars on the specifics of seafarers' work, the trade union movement and ways to protect their interests, as awareness of their labour rights from the very beginning of their professional career is a guarantee of safety and confidence in the future.

Thus, during the meeting with the 1st-3rd year cadets of the Danube Institute of the National University "Odesa Maritime Academy", the Inspector of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) in Ukraine and her assistant told about the labour rights that every seafarer should know, especially a cadet who is going on his first voyage. The youth learned how to avoid fraud, use digital resources, including the ITF's Look Up the Ship app, and how to properly contact the union or ITF for help. Such measures help cadets feel confident and protected from the very first voyage.



# SEAFARERS' WELFARE

## UNION DENT: NEW LEVEL OF MEDICAL SERVICES ACCESSIBILITY

The MTWTU, in cooperation with the fraternal German trade union ver.di, the Welfare Fund of Maritime Transport "MORTTRANS" and the medical partner UNION DENT Clinic, implemented a large-scale initiative — a campaign awareness-raising campaign on dental hygiene for MTWTU cadets.

The foundation for such programmes is the long-standing cooperation between the MTWTU and ver.di.

Today, 100 cadets have already received a full range of dental services and continue their treatment from UNION DENT. Each young project participant receives a professional dental consultation, preventive dental treatment, individual recommendations for dental care, and a hygiene set free-of-charge. Also, among the benefits of the initiative, there is a chance to win a modern irrigator that provides effective teeth brushing at home.

**"This is the first consultation I had where the doctor calmly explained and demonstrated everything to me. Now I definitely know how to properly care for my teeth and why prevention is more important than treatment. I am sincerely grateful to the Trade Union, the WF "MORTTRANS" and ver.di, without whose support this project wouldn't have been possible!"** shares Maksym, a cadet of the National University "Odesa Maritime Academy".

The MTWTU together with the German trade union ver.di continue to work to ensure that our members have access to the necessary assistance and feel confident — both during their studies and in their future profession.





## EASTER SUPPORT FOR MTWTU MEMBERS

The MTWTU congratulated its members and their families on the bright Easter holiday — a symbol of hope, renewal and goodness. Thanks to international solidarity and joint efforts, the MTWTU implemented several Easter initiatives across the country.

### Unity Campaign with the ITF-ETF Solidarity Fund

Today, in times of severe challenges, the MTWTU continues to be a reliable support for its members in every corner of Ukraine. Thanks to the assistance of the ITF-ETF Solidarity Fund, 150 members of the trade union community across the country received holiday sets — a sincere expression of solidarity and care.



### Easter Gifts with SEKO's Contribution

The Union's Easter campaign together with the Welfare Fund "MORTRANS" and sister trade union SEKO (Sweden) in Odesa was particularly warm: about 100 seafarers and their families personally received their gifts.

Veterans of the industry were not left without attention. The Welfare Fund "MORTRANS", together with the MTWTU and SEKO, congratulated 70 retired seafarers — those who have dedicated their lives to the maritime industry. Their support was a special gesture of gratitude for their dedicated work.



#### FOR MORE DETAILS

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