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Circular Letter No.4519
1 March 2022

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of Ukraine**

The Government of Ukraine has sent the attached communication, dated 28 February 2022, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



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Nr. 6124/23-327/2- 51 - URGENT

The Embassy of Ukraine in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organisation and has the honour to inform about the following.

On 24 February 2022 Russia has launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which represents an act of war, a gross violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the UN Charter and the fundamental norms and principles of international law.

Russian troops have entered into the territory of Ukraine from Belarus and the occupied Crimea, and are attacking Ukrainian cities, conducting an ongoing indiscriminate and disproportionate airstrikes, cruise missiles' and MLRS' shellings of critical infrastructure.

Russian aggression is already bringing extremely dire consequences for international maritime shipping. In the Black Sea, several merchant ships have already suffered from the illegal actions of the Russian naval forces. Global supply chains have been disrupted. Thousands of Ukrainian seafarers cannot safely and quickly return home to their families.

Fully aware of the importance of Ukrainian seafarers to ensure the stable operation of international maritime shipping and the stability of international supply chains, the Government of Ukraine continues to fully comply with its obligations under international maritime conventions, including the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW).

The Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine has already informed the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) about the extension of the certificates of competence and seafarers identity documents of Ukrainian seafarers until 31.12.2021.

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The Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine jointly with other Ukrainian governmental authorities and in a cooperation with Ukrainian recruitment and replacement services will provide full assistance to ensure the safe repatriation and replacement of Ukrainian seafarers to warrant the stability of thousands of ships on board of which they traditionally work.

In this regard, Ukraine appeals to all IMO Member States, shipowners and ship managers with the following:

1. provide maximum assistance to Ukrainian seafarers who wish to be repatriated ahead of schedule for the purpose of reunification with their families in Ukraine and not apply any penalties for early termination of their contracts;
2. ensure the repatriation of Ukrainian seafarers to the EU states neighboring Ukraine, as well as to the Republic of Moldova;
3. renew seafarers' employment contracts for Ukrainians who are currently working on ships and who wish to continue working on ships until the end of Russia's aggression against Ukraine;
4. for remittance of seafarers' salaries suggesting shipping companies to upload funds on personal cash passport cards and provide minimum cash advance in amount not less than 500 USD for travel allowance;
5. provide Ukrainian seafarers with additional opportunities for operational communication with their relatives, including additional free access to the Internet.

The Embassy of Ukraine would appreciate if this Note Verbal is urgently circulated among IMO Member States to all IMO Member States, international organizations which have concluded agreements of cooperation with the IMO and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the IMO.

The Embassy of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organisation the assurances of its highest consideration.

London, 28 February 2022

