Confederation of European ShipsMasters' Association

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To:

EU Parliament, Mr David MCALLISTER, Chair Committee on Foreign Affairs
EU Commission, Ms Kaja Kallas, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
IMO, Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary General

Subject : Safety of Navigation in the Black Sea

Following the latest development of the situation in the Black Sea and the fact that during the 2026 more than 40 merchant seafarers had been killed in more than 570 attacks on merchant ships in the Black Sea area we consider the efforts of international organizations and EU institutions not sufficient to ensure safety of navigation. The life of seafarers is endangered and a lot of seafarers are in situation of no choice when their owners order the ships they serve to go to Black Sea. There are recommendations to switch off AIS, GPS is jammed and spoofed, there are dropped off containers at sea, ships hit by drones and abandoned by their crew are floating at sea. All that makes sailing more dangerous and increases risk of incidents and dangerous situations at sea.

CESMA urges governments of coastal countries in the Black Sea, United Nations, IMO, EU institutions and all the parties involved to ensure normal working environment for the seafarers in the Black Sea. If the insurers work with statistics for the families of seafarers who lost their life during attacks on merchant ships the dead toll is 100 percent and they have to survive without their beloved ones in the future challenging world. More than 90 percent of the world trade is done by sea. Black Sea is one of the important grain exporting areas to provide food and that's why the world has to pay attention and to make all efforts to ensure normal conditions merchant ships to sail safely in the area. If we want to have proficient seafarers on board ships we have to provide them proper working environment.

We'll stay vigilant and we'll monitor the development of the situation providing our members with information to do their job properly and to safe their life at sea. Please, do Your best to ensure safe shipping in the Black Sea and other dangerous areas in the world like Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea. We are ready to cooperate, discuss and give our opinion on solving the problem.

Yours Very Truly:



..... (capt. Dimitar Dimitrov, PHD, FNI),
President of European Confederation of Shipmasters Associations