

INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING
NOTE OF CREW CHANGE TASK FORCE MEETING
TUESDAY 14 JULY 2020 AT 1200 UK TIME

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH COMPETITION RULES

Welcome and Introduction.

1. CREW CHANGES

Guy – ministerial summit held last Thursday 9 July hosted by the UK government. ICS addressed the meeting as did the IMO SG and ITF. Passionate speeches were delivered, particularly by Greece regarding the plight of seafarers. 13 countries signed up to the declaration as follows:

- (a) ENCOURAGE all IMO states to designate seafarers as "key workers" providing an essential service, to facilitate safe and unhindered movement for embarking or disembarking a vessel;
- (b) CONSIDER the legal possibilities for accepting internationally recognised documentation, such as International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers certificate, the International Labour Organization Seafarers' Identity Document (ILO 185) and a letter by the seafarers' company, carried by seafarers as evidence of their status as key workers, and purpose of their travel and movement for crew changes;
- (c) ENGAGE, nationally, multilaterally and bilaterally, in discussions about implementation, to the maximum extent possible, as appropriate to the circumstances that may prevail nationally or locally, of the Recommended Framework of Protocols for Ensuring Safe Ship Crew Changes and Travel during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, circulated to IMO Member States as Circular Letter No.4204/Add.14 on 5 May 2020;
- (d) REVIEW, working in conjunction with our health, immigration and other relevant ministries, agencies and authorities, the necessity of any restrictions that may continue to apply, at national and/or local level, to the movement and travel of seafarers for the purpose of conducting ships' crew changes. This includes the possibility of allowing exemptions from quarantine or similar restrictions in accordance with relevant international rules, health regulatory guidelines as adopted by competent organisations and Industry such as the World Health Organisation, and the ability for ship owners to accommodate seafarers in hotels or designated shelters, should the quarantine be a national requirement, without delaying the ship's operations, once the crew change has taken place.
- (e) CONSIDER, in liaison with our relevant ministries and authorities, including those responsible for immigration, temporary measures including

(where possible under relevant law) the possibility of waivers, exemptions or other relaxations from any visa or documentary requirements that might normally apply to seafarers; and

- (f) EXPLORE, in cooperation with ICAO and the aviation industry, ways of increasing access, as soon as possible, to commercial flights to and from the principal countries of origin of seafarers and the airports in reasonable proximity to those seaports where crew changes are effected and:
- (g) URGE all IMO Members to take any necessary measures, within their area of jurisdiction, to ensure seafarers affected by the Covid-19 pandemic enjoy safe crew changes as well as repatriation to their home countries or to their place of ordinary residence.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-international-commitment-to-improve-seafarers-rights>

Guy - Philippines are due to make an announcement tomorrow regarding flight travel. Egypt are opening up to crew changes and actively encouraging it.

Guy – lack of commercial flights remains the main concern.

Stuart – case studies regarding the human element would be helpful for communications with the media regarding the lengths companies are going to repatriate seafarers.

Phil (Intertanko) – one member sailed a ship offshore in ballast from Angola, West Africa to Gibraltar and the UK for a crew change, all at owner's cost.

Claudia (ECSA) – letters will be sent at Prime Minister level with copies to various department heads this week. Member States that have signed up at the summit appear to be more engaged. However, visa issues remain and a sustainable solution is still needed.

ECSA and the ETF have a meeting with commissioner Valean (Commissioner for transport) this week and will be pushing her too for further action maybe as follow up to UK summit. Moreover they wish to talk about identifying possible concrete steps to address the current crisis in the short term and build resilience in the medium/longer term. So an update and exchange on the current situation of seafarers and the challenges that they are facing and Preparedness of the sector for a re-introduction of restrictive measures in the event of increasing infections or a 'second wave'.

If you have any suggested issues or example of cases please send to me and we will add to those we will raise.

Michael (Singapore) – no update from last week, not seeing any complaints or escalation since the revised protocols were brought in.

Rajesh (Singapore) – no update from last week, India lockdown extended until end of July for international flights and hoping to open up from first week August.

Nita (Switzerland) – more areas are opening up but flights are very expensive.

Teresa (Australia) – no real change in Australia. Number of flights into Australia has been halved to approx 4,000/week. The situation in Australia is getting worse and expected to get worse still. Some states have closed borders. AMSA are taking a firm line with ships/owners regarding crew changes even though crew changes in Australia are not generally possible.

2. TESTING

Guy – looking to develop a proper system for testing of seafarers.

Phil (Intertanko) – seeing a lot more positive testing of ship's crew on board. How to live with seafarers on board that have tested positive but cannot be repatriated.

3. CHARTERING AND INSURANCE ISSUES

Kiran – last week BIMCO advised that they had no data regarding whether the clause is being used or how any negotiations between owners and charterers is progressing.

Jakob (BIMCO) – a lack of feedback may be an indication that the clause has been well received.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 21 July, an invite will be sent out as usual.

ATTENDANCE

Representatives of following national and international associations:

Australia
Bahamas
Cyprus
Denmark
Germany
Greece
Hong Kong
Japan
Liberia
Netherlands
Norway
Singapore
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom

With

ICS
CLIA
ECSA
BIMCO
INTERCARGO
INTERTANKO
IG P&I
IMEC
WSC
WaterFront