



International Ships Registry of Guinea-Bissau
Technical Service Circular Nr. 01/2022, 18.03.2022
IMO Developments



Subject: “IMO Extraordinary Council Session held to discuss the impacts on shipping and seafarers of the situation in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov”

1. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) held an extraordinary session of its Council on 10 and 11 March to address the impacts on shipping and seafarers of the situation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. The Council among other decisions underscored the paramount importance of **preserving the safety and welfare of seafarers** and urged Member States and observer organizations to provide maximum assistance to seafarers caught up in the conflict. In addition underscored the need to preserve the security of international shipping and the maritime community, and the supply chains that sustain other nations, as well as supply chains providing necessary food and medicines to the people of Ukraine.
2. In addition the Council recalled the statement of the IMO Secretary-General (26 February 2022) which expresses his grave concern regarding the **spillover effects of the military action in Ukraine on global shipping**, and logistics and supply chains, in particular the impacts on the delivery of commodities and food to developing nations and the impacts on energy supplies; and highlighted that ships, seafarers and port workers engaged in legitimate trade should not be collateral victims in the political and military crisis.
3. **Blue safe maritime corridor.** The Council agreed to encourage the establishment, as a provisional and urgent measure, of a blue safe maritime corridor to allow the safe evacuation of seafarers and ships from the high-risk and affected areas in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov to a safe place in order to protect the life of seafarers, ensure the mobilization and commercial navigation of vessels intending to use this corridor by avoiding military attacks and protecting and securing the maritime domain.
4. **Proposal to support seafarers.** The Council welcomed several proposals to reduce the suffering of seafarers and their families, including as a priority, that ships should be allowed to sail from the ports of Ukraine at the earliest opportunity without threat of attack and where port State control officers are presented with **expired documentation**, a pragmatic approach to the inspection should be taken, considering the exceptional nature of the situation.

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