

Confederation of European ShipsMasters' Association

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November, 21st 2023

To: EU Commission for Transports
EU Parliament (Groups and Searica)
EMSA

Subject: Hijacking of seafarers in Red Sea

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

The situation in Red Sea is becoming complicated with the latest hijacking of the car carrier Galaxy Leader. In the busy lane connecting Europe with Far East there are a lot ships sailing in that area and a lot of our members are in that area every day in danger of being hijacked.

Confederation of European Shipmasters Associations (CESMA) strongly protests against any actions endangering crew members on board commercial ships. Being part of world supply chain the seafarers are important link ensuring the transportation of goods from one place to the other. Without them there will be almost no goods in the shops.

Up to now ships and seamen had been taken hostages because of economical reasons. However in this last case, we face the political issues. That means the methods to solve the problem lay in the hands of politicians. CESMA urges EU Institutions, EU Parliament and EU Commission to take appropriate actions to release all (not only EU) seafarers taken as hostages and to consider sending military forces in the new high risk area near the coast of Yemen to reduce the risk of attacks to merchant vessels.

We, at CESMA, are ready to cooperate with all the parties concerned and we'll give our professional expertise for the matter to be solved. Of course we'll continue monitoring the situation. We hope the Red Sea, as one of the focal points of world shipping, will remain a safe and free passage to all seafarers.

Furthermore EU Institutions have to cooperate in the international level with UN and IMO as specialized agency of the United Nations and global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping to raise the matter in the UN and it's Security Council and to take diplomatic steps to ensure safer working conditions at sea for all seafarers on all oceans as per terms stated in UNCLOS.

Yours Very Truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dimitar', is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Capt. Dimitar Dimitrov, PHD, FNI
CESMA President