



**Montenegro**  
**Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs**

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Podgorica, April 10, 2020

**DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO MONTENEGRO**

**Attn. of H.E. Mr. Aivo Orav**

Esteemed Excellency,

Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs (MTMA) and the Directorate for Maritime Transport and Inland Navigation have been working together from the very start to resolve various problematic situations our seafarers have encountered following the introduction of restrictive measures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the examples is the Decision to Undertake Temporary Measures caused by COVID-19 pandemic which was adopted on March 20, 2020 and which enables extension of validity of identification documentation of seafarers for a period of 3 months in order to ensure legal work and further residence on board a ship. MTMA adopted this Decision following the joint reaction of the European Transport Workers' Federation and European Community Ship owners' Association which led to similar Decisions being adopted in the majority of EU member states.

The English version of the above mentioned Decision was sent to the International Maritime Organization, International Labor Organization and the European Maritime Safety Agency. Following this step, it was decided for International Maritime Organization to send a circular letter to all flag states and inform said states of the extension of validity of Montenegrin documents.

Inspired by the recently received documents on exceptional measures in transport to deal with COVID-19 received from the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community and communication connected to the defined green corridors which are functional during COVID-19 pandemic, Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs would like to ask for your support in finding a mechanism which would enable free passage of Montenegrin seafarers through EU states, i.e. transport, embarkment and disembarkment, on foreign and Montenegrin ships in EU ports.

Ensuring a certain type of a transport corridor for Montenegrin seafarers would be of great significance for Montenegro and its economy considering that Montenegro has around 7.000 active seafarers and that it is assumed that there are some 3.000 seafarers on foreign and Montenegrin ships at the moment.

With the aim of ensuring safe transport of Montenegrin seafarers to the final destination port, we are willing to undertake all measures of protection, including quarantine of seafarers, tests to COVID-19 and a medical certificate which states that the test is negative prior to the beginning of transport, and ensure respect of all measures prescribed by all EU member states through which seafarers would pass on the way to their final destination during transport.

In the attachment we are submitting the Decision to Undertake Temporary Measures caused by COVID-19 pandemic and the recommendation of International Maritime Organization which in point 2 of the Annex recommends measures which would ensure change of crew within ports.

In hopes of a positive response on your side we send warm regards and wish you good health.

Sincerely,



**Osman Nurković**  
**MINISTER**