



INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN MARITIME ASSOCIATION

ICMA MEDITERRANEAN, BLACK SEA AND MIDDLE EAST

BULLETIN

5th BULLETIN (April 2010)

HAPPY EASTER!!!



Jesus has risen!
from the depths of the Sea
from the rusty hull of a ship
from the daily work of thousands of
seafarers
from their hopes and dreams
Jesus has risen

From the tenderness of a human touch
from the silence of a tear
from the shaking of hands
from the sense of solidarity
from the fight for justice
Jesus has risen

To show us the infinite love of God
Jesus has risen.

Dear friends:

First of all I wish you a very happy Easter.

Here you have the 5th Bulletin of our region.

As you know, this tries to be a communication tool among us.

You will find also some news and information that very probably you already know.

However, I think it is good to inform you about some special meetings and news that are important for our ministry.

This year as “the year of the seafarer”, shouldn’t pass without organizing some activities. It is a good opportunity to learn about the new ILO instrument and also to inform to the people in our port.

It would be very nice if we could share our experiences during this year.

Regarding our regional directory I have got updates from some ports in our region.

During these months I have been in touch with some of you. However, it is still a pending matter to develop real networking among us. I thank Miroslav Marinov who has sent me a bulletin that Life produces in Dures (Albania). I reproduce part of it for your information.

Ricardo,
Regional Coordinator.



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Letter from the LIFE Seafarers Centre Durrës, Albania

Dear friends,

We would like to share with you some reports about LIFE Durrës Ministry in Albania.

We are happy to be an important instrument in helping many International seafarers from all nations that come in port of Durrës.

Recently the ministry in Durrës has faced difficulties especially during these 2 years in fulfilling the vision we have about seafarer's welfare and meeting some of their minimal conditions.

We are very blessed having good facilities to offer to all of seafarers from all nations regardless of their nationality, race, religion and this is the special thing they see, when they are invited in our center and have a very friendly reception.

Besides offering a friendly reception to them we want to offer them other things that are necessary to help them.

We have done what we can to self support our ministry.

Even there has been a lack of finances we have tried to do something, a little here and there. We have had important meeting with mayor of Durrës municipality and local churches.

They welcome our ministry but they have said that the government itself and their offices don't have money and the local churches have their own church projects.

This is hard to believe but this is the situation in Albania that we hope will change for better. That doesn't mean that we will stop asking and talk about our ministry and vision for seafarer's welfare.

We will do our best to serve all seafarers and show them the love of God in practice and need also your help for Durrës ministry in order to continuing this wonderful work toward those seamen in need.

Alone we can't, together we can.

We would like to share with you about our major needs that the Durrës ministry has.

1. Tax payment for the property building
 2. A vehicle for seafarers transportation
 3. Internet access and computers.
 4. Painting the building (The building is not being paint for many years)
 5. Sport field in not good conditions
 6. Personnel wages (chaplain, secretary and cleaner, other work by volunteers)
- It is wonderful working together and

Thank you for understanding our burden and needs and hope you will be a part of this work by helping LIFE Durrës ministry, spiritually and financially.

Miroslav Marinov



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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

From January 18th to 25th we celebrated the week of prayer for Christian Unity. In Barcelona we met on January 21st together with the German Evangelicals, the British Anglicans and the Russian Orthodox and had together a nice Ecumenical Celebration and afterwards a snack.



Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholics Ministers at the Ecumenical celebration in Barcelona



Filipino seafarers joining our celebration

Annual General Meeting of ICSW in Barcelona 23-26 March 2010

In March (23 to 26th) the International Committee on Seafarers Welfare celebrated its Annual General Meeting in Barcelona. 50 delegates from 24 different countries from around the world participated on it.



(opening of the AGM)

The main topic was the ILO MLC 2006, which is without doubt a very important tool for everybody involved in the promotion of seafarers' welfare. According the different speakers from ISF, ITF, & ILO, this new convention was likely to be ratified later this year and implemented in 2011. Regarding the celebration of the year of the seafarer, the General Secretary of ICSW, Roger Harris, explained that ICSW plans to deliver a series of projects and other activities that will have a positive impact on the welfare of seafarers around the world."

Following colleagues from our region joined us:

Miroslav Marinov (Bulgaria), Tatyana Tarasyk (Ukraine), Andrea Pesce and Paolo Cavanna (Italy).



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2010, THE “YEAR OF THE SEAFARER”

On our last Regional Bulletin, we spoke about it and how you can find on the ICMA website a 2010 calendar highlighting the International Year of the Seafarer. Also ITF has produced one and has sent some copies to the ICMA centres. If you haven't got it, ask them to send you a copy.

However, it will be important to take advantage of this event to let people know about seafarers through the media and perhaps also by organising some journeys or conferences.

This could also be a good opportunity to speak about ILO MLC 2006.

Look for some speakers, bring together Port authority, shipowners, ship agents, unions, etc. and speak about it.

It is not easy, but if we achieve it, it should be worthwhile.

In Barcelona, we publicised in the main news paper of the port an article regarding MLC 2006 and we are working now preparing a workshop about it as an activity for the year of the seafarer.

I don't know the result, but we will try it.

It would be nice if we could share the materials and ideas for celebrating this important year of the seafarer.

We should also invite port communities to do something as a sign of gratitude for the great contribution seafarers make to the world's community.



Interesting programmes:

“Twinning centres program”

In March 2 staff members of “Stella Maris friends” in Venice, visited Duckdulben International seamen's club in Hamburg and members of the staff of this centre will visit Venice in the near future.

If you like to have such experience with a centre in another port, contact Tatiana Tarasyk (seamencl@te.net.ua).

ICMA Seafarers Ministry Training

ICMA organizes training courses every year. If you like to assist, contact Martina Platte (missgsm@netvigator.com) who is responsible for them.

Ship Welfare Visitors Courses

ICSW organizes them. If you would like ICSW to organize one course in your country, contact them icsw@icsw.org.uk

This was the 5th bulletin. Please send contributions for the next one!