

**Media Release – 23 June 2021**

**Day of the Seafarer 2021:  
INTERCARGO Joins Calls for a Fair Future for Seafarers**

INTERCARGO is supporting the shipping community by encouraging bulk carriers in ports around the world to sound their horns at 12 noon local time on 25 June, the IMO Day of the Seafarer, to remind the world of the urgent need to vaccinate all seafarers serving on board and awaiting on shore for re-employment, and to guarantee a fair future for them.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, seafarers have found themselves both on the front line of the global response and subjected to difficult working conditions, surrounded by uncertainties and difficulties around shore leave in ports, access to medical facilities on shore, re-supply, crew changeovers and repatriation.

INTERCARGO applauds the efforts of those countries, including the United States and the Netherlands, which have begun seafarer inoculation programmes utilising their ports as vaccination hubs. Vitally they are vaccinating both national and international seafarers that enter their ports and INTERCARGO urges all other maritime nations to follow this lead and ensure vaccination programmes are put in place to support the seafarer, especially in light of the continuing emergence of new variants of the COVID-19 virus.

While steps have been taken to improve the situation in the last twelve months, there remains uncertainty amongst many ships' crews who are still unsure of when they will be repatriated and what the future holds for them. In addition, in the distressing case of seafarers dying on board, families continue to face immense hurdles in having the bodies of their loved ones repatriated. Every day seafarers on shore, and their families, are suffering stress and worry over re-employment and resuming earnings, whilst their counterparts on board are fatigued and anxious for relief so they can reunite with their loved ones.

On this Day of the Seafarer 2021 INTERCARGO calls on governments around the world who have ratified the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) to show compassion and understanding by taking swift action without any delay.

The #Shoutoutforseafarers campaign is aimed at reminding the world of the urgent need to vaccinate all seafarers, and the dangers of leaving this unique population unvaccinated.

**About INTERCARGO:** International shipping is vital for the global economy and prosperity as it transports approximately 90% of world trade. The dry bulk sector is the largest shipping sector in terms of number of ships and deadweight. Dry bulk carriers account for 43% of the world fleet (in tonnage) and carry an estimated 55% of the global transport work. You are invited to view our video [Dry Bulk Shipping: Sustainably serving the world's essential needs<sup>1</sup>](#).

The International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (INTERCARGO) unites and promotes quality dry bulk shipping, bringing together some 220 forward thinking companies from 30 countries and representing close to 25% by deadweight of the global dry bulk fleet. INTERCARGO convened for the first time in 1980 in London and has been participating with consultative status at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) since 1993. INTERCARGO provides the forum where dry bulk shipowners, managers and operators are informed about, discuss, and share concerns on key topics and regulatory challenges, especially in relation to safety, the environment, and operational excellence. The Association takes forward its Members' positions to IMO, as well as to other shipping and international industry fora, having free and fair competition as a principle.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.intercargo.org/video-2020](http://www.intercargo.org/video-2020)