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Circular Letter No.4769
24 August 2023

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of Ukraine**

The Government of Ukraine has sent the attached communication, dated 22 August 2023, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

**МІНІСТЕРСТВО
РОЗВИТКУ
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ТА ІНФРАСТРУКТУРИ
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International Maritime Organization
Secretary-General
Mr. Kitack LIM

Your Excellency!

On behalf of the Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine, I have the honour to express my compliments to You, Mr. Lim, as well as to the International Maritime Organization and address with the following.

Since the very beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2023, the Russian Federation reverted on a permanent basis to measures, aimed at blocking the maritime routes in Ukraine's sovereign waters and preventing the freedom of international shipping in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Such actions led to the negative global impact on international maritime trade and seafarers.

This was also manifested in the withdrawal of the Russian Federation from the Black Sea Grain Initiative on July 17, 2023, which was concluded under the auspices of the United Nations in order to solve the problems of global world security.

In view of the above and, being guided by the provisions of Articles 22, 87 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Regulations 9 and 10 of the Chapter V of 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, as amended, and, taking into account recommendations of the International Maritime Organization, Ukraine has established on a temporary basis a recommended maritime route. Its goal is to facilitate the unblocking of international shipping in the north-western part of the Black Sea.

This information was highlighted during the 129th session of IMO Council, and brought to seafarers by coastal warnings.



ДОКУМЕНТ СЕД

Підписувач Кубраков Олександр Миколайович
Сертифікат 26B2648ADD3032E104000000662432009F5CAD00
Дійсний з 06.12.2022 по 05.12.2024

Міністерство розвитку громад, територій
та інфраструктури України



7591/46/14-23 від 22.08.2023

The proposed temporary route has an exit from the sovereign waters of Ukraine, to the territorial sea and the exclusive maritime economic zone of Romania. Shipmasters are advised to move ships as close as possible to the coast of the western part of the Black Sea.

In view of the existing risks and as a result of the unpredictable actions of the Russian Federation, Ukraine appealed to the Black Sea coastal countries of Romania, the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Türkiye through diplomatic channels with the aim of facilitating the passage of ships to/from Ukrainian seaports through sovereign waters (territorial sea) of these countries, without access to the maritime economic zone.

We would greatly appreciate if the IMO Secretariat circulates this letter among all Member States, Observer States and Organizations in Consultative Status with the IMO.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency, Mr. Lim, the assurance of my highest consideration and express hope for further fruitful cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Prime Minister
for Restoration of Ukraine – Minister

Oleksandr KUBRAKOV



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