
4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Circular Letter No.4255/Add.1
8 July 2020

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

Subject: **Communication from the Kingdom of Belgium**

The Government of the Kingdom of Belgium has sent the attached communication, dated 7 July 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



Rue du Progrès 56
1210 Brussels
info@mobiliteit.fgov.be
+32 2 277 31 11

International Maritime Organisation
Attn. Mr Kitack Lim, Secretary-General
Albert Embankment, 4
SE1 7SR London
United Kingdom

Contact person	Number of contact	Date
Els Claeys Els.claeys@mobiliteit.fgov.be	+32 2 277 35 26	07/07/2020

Subject: Seafarers are key workers

Dear Mr Secretary-General,

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the crisis on seafarers, Belgium has taken measures as a flag state and as a port state to facilitate crew changes, the transit of seafarers and access to medical care for seafarers. Belgium duly recognizes the central role of seafarers, not only in the maritime sector but also in the world's economy.

In accordance with the guidelines issued by the International Maritime Organisation and the European Commission, Belgium allows seafarers to travel, to be in transit, to join a ship or to return back home.

It would be appreciated if you could bring this to the attention of the IMO Member States and Associate Members and add Belgium to the list of countries that have designated seafarers as key workers.

Yours sincerely,

Eugeen Van Craeyvelt
Director-General