

Confederation of European ShipMasters' Association

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12 June 2024

To: European Commission of Transport

Mr. Henrik HOLOLEI

Director-General

Mr. Matthew BALDWIN

Deputy Director-General C, D, E

Mrs. Magda KOPCZYNSKA

Directorate D

To: Ministry of Sea, Transport, and Infrastructure - Croatia

Mr. Oleg BUTKOVIC

Vice President of Government and Minister

Subject : Captain and crew of M/V Phoenician-M detained in Turkey

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

CESMA (Confederation of European ShipMasters' Association) is writing to you about the situation involving the Croatian Master from the vessel Phoenician-M, flagged Panama, IMO Nb 9450806. On 5 October 2023, the entire crew was arrested by the Turkish authorities on suspicion of drug trafficking.

While some of the crew have been allowed to leave Turkey, and even if no charges have been filed against the crew, ten crew members, including the Croatian Captain, remain detained.

CESMA would like to support our Croatian colleague, and his crew, on the matter.

CESMA is supporting the Croatian Captain of the vessel, Capt. Marko Bekavac, and his detained crew, for a fair treatment as it is required by IMO Resolution A.1056(27).

CESMA encourages also the Croatian authorities, as well as the European diplomatic authorities, to be in tight relations with Turkish authorities in order for the Captain and the crew members to not be detained in prison before they are charged.

CESMA also requests that the investigation into this matter be concluded at the earliest opportunity.

Respectful regards.

Capt H. ARDILLON

CESMA Secretary General

general.secretary@cesma-europe.org

copy to Croatian Shipmasters' Association (ZHUPK)
Turkish Ocean-going Masters' Association (TUGKD)