



Nautilus Federation statement on failure of social dialogue

The International Labour Organization (ILO) Minimum Wage for Seafarers is a long-established safety net that seeks to ensure that seafarers worldwide are not exploited, by establishing a global floor and by contributing to the goal of decent work.

The current Seafarers Minimum Wage (a basic rate monthly salary for an Able Seafarer, or AB) was agreed in 2018 to be US\$641 with effect from 1st January 2021. At the most recent discussions hosted by the ILO, a report was presented which established that US\$641 needed to be increased to US\$683 to allow seafarers wages to keep up with inflation and currency movements.

A rise to the basic wage from US\$641 to US\$683 represents the equivalent of US\$1.40 per day - less than the price of a cup of coffee in any major capital city, but a monthly sum that could have a positive impact on the lives of seafarers.

Since the 2018 negotiations, the world has experienced the Covid-19 pandemic. Alongside the global health crisis, seafarers have faced the Crew Change Crisis - one of the toughest periods ever for seafarers in living memory. Many thousands of seafarers have faced periods onboard their vessels far in excess of the maximum duration of 11 months described by the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 as amended. Conversely many thousands have been unable to join their vessels and have had to survive without any income

Despite this fact, and despite the warm words offered by shipowners throughout the pandemic, shipowners have failed to agree a raise to the ILO Minimum Wage that would have recognised the efforts of seafarers. Instead, shipowners proposed a real-terms pay cut to seafarers. In so doing, they determined that seafarers do not deserve US\$1.40 extra per day.

The undersigned Nautilus Federation affiliates believe that seafarers are overdue a pay rise, especially while the world is still facing Covid-19 challenges. This is particularly true when the shipping industry is reporting a surge in demand, when dividends have been paid to shareholders, and when seafarers have borne the brunt of keeping the shipping industry moving and the world supplied with over 90% of everything we consume - including vaccinations and medical supplies.

We hereby declare that we support the ITF in their demands that shipowners respect the ILO mechanism and unilaterally impose a new minimum monthly basic wage rate from 1st January 2022, in line with the figure established by the ILO Office report of **US\$683**.

We will further urge the ITF to formally advise the ILO Governing Body accordingly of the revised rate.

As Nautilus Federation affiliates, we are pleased to see that the International Transport Workers' Federation is keeping their door open for future discussions and to provide seafarers with a rise to the ILO Minimum Wage that will truly recognise their extraordinary efforts during the past 14 months. We encourage good shipowners to adequately recognise seafarers for their efforts and we stand ready to support ITF actions in furthering this matter.



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