

---

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

Circular Letter No.4517  
24 February 2022

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 24 February 2022, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

\*\*\*





**Embassy of Ukraine**  
in the United Kingdom  
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

60 Holland Park,  
W11 3SJ, London,  
United Kingdom

+44 20 7727 6312  
+44 20 7792 1708 (fax)  
emb\_gb@mfa.gov.ua

Nr. 6124/23-327/2- 48 - URGENT

The Embassy of Ukraine in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organisation and in addition to the Note verbal dated 14 February 2022 Nr. 6124/23-327/2-37 has the honour to inform about the following.

On 24 February 2022 Russia has launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which represents an act of war, a gross violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the UN Charter and the fundamental norms and principles of international law.

Russian troops have entered into the territory of Ukraine from Belarus and the occupied Crimea, and are attacking Ukrainian cities, conducting an ongoing indiscriminate and disproportionate airstrikes, cruise missiles' and MLRS' shellings of critical infrastructure, including maritime ports zones in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, airport facilities throughout the country, as well as of civilian objects, taking the death toll on Ukrainian population.

Ukraine is responding to the Russian threat by exercising its right to self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

The direst situation for international shipping in the region began on 13 February 2022 with Russian closures of vast maritime areas in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov for 6 consecutive days (from 13.02.2022 2100 UTC to 19.02.2022 2100 UTC) under the pretext of planned naval and missile firing exercises. Thus, international merchant shipping to / from the ports of Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov was greatly limited.

At the moment the situation has significantly deteriorated with the start of the Russian full-scale military intervention. So far, Russia has deployed 46 warships in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Also in the Mediterranean Sea it stationed a large number of forces - 17 warships from all four Russian fleets, including two missile cruisers and seven more missile ships of various types, including two missile submarines.

**International Maritime Organization**  
**4 Albert Embankment**

**London**  
**SE1 7SR**

To cover-up its actions the Russian Federation completely closed maritime areas for shipping under the guise of so-called “counterterrorist operations”, as, by its usual practice, was aired retrospectively by coastal warnings from Novorossiysk and Taganrog NAVTEX stations.

The actions of the Russian Federation pose a direct threat to maritime safety and security and disrupts international commercial shipping in the Black Sea – Sea of Azov region.

Moreover, the Russian Federation’s propaganda machinery attempts to disperse disinformation about the marine casualties in these areas, including by most recently circulating the message about commercial vessels being hit by Ukrainian strikes in the Sea of Azov.

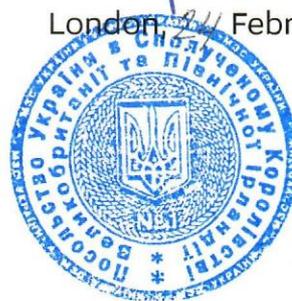
Ukraine urges the IMO Secretariat and Member States to condemn the Russian aggression against Ukraine and use all available mechanisms to exert pressure on the Russian Federation in order to stop the latter's actions in violation of international law.

The Embassy of Ukraine would appreciate if this Note Verbal is urgently circulated among IMO Member States to all IMO Member States, international organizations which have concluded agreements of cooperation with the IMO and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the IMO.

The Embassy of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organisation the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl.

London, 24 February 2022



Annex

