

Denmark allows emergency visa for stranded seafarers

Danish Authorities have now allowed issuing emergency visas to seafarers who are “stranded” as a result of COVID-19.

The National Police has responded to a request from our organization Danish Shipbrokers and Port Operators.

Mr Jesper Sebbelin, Chief Advisor at Danish Shipbrokers and Port Operators is thrilled at the news: “This is a very important signal from the Danish authorities. It is of course of enormous importance for the stranded seafarers, who can now hopefully easier travel home. But it is also very positive for the shipping companies, and for the Danish maritime cluster in total.”

In the opinion of the National Police, an emergency visa request should be granted, taking into account the very special situation which many seafarers involuntarily find themselves in connection with COVID-19. This applies both to expiring visas, but also to seafarers who, upon signing up, have not been able to foresee the need for a visa to sign off. A large proportion of the departing third-country seafarers will be able to avail themselves of the transfer scheme, but with the still limited travel routes directly out of the Schengen Area, a transit visa will provide more flexible travel options.

Emergency visas can thus be drawn up in the local Danish police districts for seafarers in transit where the transfer scheme cannot be used or where the issuing of emergency visas provides a faster and alternative travel route.

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