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Circular Letter No.4396/Add.1
22 June 2021

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

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of Slovenia**

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia has sent the attached communication, dated 22 June 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



No. VLO-21/23

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

NOTE VERBALE

The Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia presents its compliments to the International Maritime Organisation and has the honour to communicate the following information from the Ministry of infrastructure of the Republic of Slovenia concerning the extension of seafarer certificates and documents.

Lockdown measures imposed by different countries although the pandemic cases decline are still in place resulting with inability to organize crew change in some countries.

The UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/75/17 of 7 December 2020 recognizes the need for an urgent and concrete response to resolve the situation of seafarers stranded at sea and/or unable to join ships because of national travel restrictions introduced across the globe as a result of the pandemic. Despite the Republic of Slovenia has recognized seafarers as essential workers, there are still some seafarers holding certificates issued by the Republic of Slovenia embarked on board vessel with no possibility for the repatriation and whose certificates are due to expire or have already expired.

In accordance with the above mentioned and bearing in mind that seafarers are unable to individually solve the situation caused by lockdown and travel restrictions, the Republic of Slovenia considers essential that such certificates due to expire or have already expired shall remain valid until seafarers' repatriation in order to allow those seafarers to continue to work legally on board vessels until the next port of call, where their embarkation and repatriation can be organized and in the context where Covid-19 pandemic can be declared as a force majeure.

This information can be included in the relevant lists and circulated to all IMO member states.

The Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Maritime Organisation the assurances of its highest consideration.

London, 22 June 2021

**INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION**
L o n d o n

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