

## **Information provided by the Portuguese authorities on 19/03/2020**

Please find below a summary of the measures taken by the Portuguese Maritime Administration to address the challenges of COVID 19 to the maritime sector.

Concerning seafarers, we inform that our services have already adopted/pondered measures which are described below:

- With regard exclusively to seafarers, it will be necessary to consider validity extension of competences and qualifications certification, in duly typified and proven cases of impossibility to carry out the mandatory refresher courses. Having this in mind, a note was posted on DGRM's website today on the need to implement additional measures on this matter and a communication is being prepared to be validated at a higher level for further dissemination;
- Regarding the validity extension of seafarers' employment contracts (SEA), ILO was asked to provide an opinion since MLC (2006) does not provide for this type of measures;
- We consider that a concerted position between EU/ILO/IMO and the respective MOU's is desirable, however, considering the impossibility of having it immediately and taking into account the exceptional nature and force majeure of the present situation, our services are taking the steps described above.

Regarding ships certification, a note has already been posted on DGRM's website concerning the possibility of extending certificates, in line with the proposal of the Commission.

With respect to Port State Control, our approach is aligned with the Commission. In the meantime, we look forward to the circular being prepared by the PMoU secretariat.

To finish, I must say that since last week is not allowed passenger ships calls in the Portuguese ports.