

The title 'SLM Insights' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font on a blue rectangular background. The background of the entire page is a photograph of a ship's hull, showing a blue upper section and a red lower section, with white numbers (8, 4, 2, 5M) and the letters 'SM' visible on the red part.

# SLM Insights

18.12.2020

## UN RESOLUTION ON SEAFARERS AS KEY WORKERS

As a response to the difficulties faced by seafarers during the pandemic, the UN General Assembly has recently approved a Resolution entitled *"International cooperation to address challenges faced by seafarers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to support global supply chain"*.

The Resolution, put forward by Ambassador Dian Triansyah Djani of the Republic of Indonesia and leading a coalition of 71 countries, has been tabled at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly and adopted by the unanimous vote of 193 countries.

This Resolution represents an important step to address challenges faced by seafarers as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic to support global

supply chains. Sea transport is in fact strategic for the world logistics chain, for the supply of energy and basic necessities. Therefore, during the pandemic seafarers never stopped working but found themselves stranded at sea and/or unable to join ships because of national travel restrictions introduced across the globe.

In this scenario, the UN Resolution represents an important step to resolving the global crew change crisis. The purpose of the Resolution is in fact to encourage Member States *"to designate seafarers and other marine personnel as key workers"*. Moreover, Governments are urged to immediately implement measures *"to ensure safe ship crew changes (...) including by enabling embarkment and disembarkment and expediting travel and repatriation efforts as well as ensuring access to medical care"*.

The designation of seafarers as key workers could, therefore, solve many of the issues that arose during the pandemic through joint action by the governments of the Member States.



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