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20 April 2020

COVID-19(20)40

**TO: BOARD  
ALL MEMBERS & ASSOCIATE MEMBERS  
COMMUNICATION LEADS**

**REQUEST THAT ALL SHIPS IN PORT SOUND THEIR HORNS ON 1 MAY 2020**

***Action required: To ask member companies, shipowners, managers, port operators and any relevant national stakeholder to encourage ships captains to sound their horns when in port at 12.00 local on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020.***

1<sup>st</sup> May is recognised in many countries around the world as International Workers' Day, Workers' Day, Labour Day or May Day. This is a day which is used to celebrate and recognise the contribution made by workers across the world. At this difficult time for the world we want to ensure that the contribution made by seafarers is not forgotten. Therefore, we want to encourage as many ships as possible across the world, who are in a port or harbour, to sound their horns (as is safe to do so) at 12.00 local time on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020. Please ask your member companies, shipowners, managers, port operators and any relevant stakeholder to encourage ships captains to action this gesture.

We are then encouraging the Communications Teams of National Associations and Companies to invite media, particularly broadcast media, to report on this mass horn sounding, and to use it as the hook for a story highlighting the over 1.2 million seafarers that are currently working to ensure that food, fuel and supplies continue to flow for all.

We would also encourage national associations to invite government ministers to recognise this contribution by providing a quote or public statement of support. This will help further raise the issue of seafarer crew change in the political realm to provide further pressure to facilitate action.

Stuart Neil  
Communications Director