



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

16 March 2023

Dear Mr. Grimaldi,

I wish to thank you for your joint letter dated 20 February 2023, highlighting the concerning situation of seafarers remaining on vessels in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization is engaging on multiple tracks to facilitate the safe departure of vessels stranded in Ukraine and of affected seafarers, with the support of the Director-General of the International Labour Organization. This includes advocacy efforts and consultations with relevant parties.

I wish to thank you once again for raising this issue and for the continued engagement of the shipping industry in the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

I would be grateful if you could kindly share this response with your fellow co-signatories.

Yours sincerely,

*with my warmest regards*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'António Guterres', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

António Guterres

Mr. Emanuele Grimaldi  
Chairman  
International Chamber of Shipping  
London