

# Confederation of European ShipsMasters' Association

Muntplein 10 - 1012 WR AMSTERDAM - THE NETHERLANDS

email : [cesma-eu@introweb.nl](mailto:cesma-eu@introweb.nl)



On 18 January 2021

To Mrs Adina VALEAN  
EU Commissioner for Transport

To Mr Henrik HOLOLEI – Mr Matthew BALDWIN  
Mrs Magda KOPCZYNSKA – Mr Sandro SANTAMATO  
Mr Sian PROUT – Mrs Daniela ROSCA  
DG MOVE

Cc Mrs Maja MARKKOVIC KOSTELAC  
EMSA Executive Director

Subject : Facilitating vaccination process for seafarers

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

During this Covid-19 crisis, the situation for seafarers is improving too slowly. The arrival of vaccines could greatly simplify relief. Paradoxically, however, it could also complicate the lives of many seafarers. Indeed, once the majority of populations will have been vaccinated, it is very likely that air transport will only be accessible to vaccinated people. This may therefore once again complicate the repatriation of seafarers who were at sea during the vaccination period.

Also, to facilitate the reliefs, two points seem essential to us :

1. To include seafarers in the list of people to be vaccinated as a priority.
2. To make sure that the seafarers who were at sea and not able to be vaccinated can return home with a protocol similar to the one currently in force, i.e. sanitary corridor, PCR tests, etc...

Several reasons plead in favor of a priority for seafarers in access to vaccines, firstly the essential nature of their mission, which has been stated many times and which must be translated into action. Secondly, the difficulties to be relieved for an unvaccinated seafarer who will grow as the populations are vaccinated. Thirdly, the fact that it can be complicated for a seafarer to be present ashore for two injections spaced by several weeks from first to second and this can also lead to delay relieves while waiting for the on-signer to undergo the two injections.

Seafarers already suffered during this crisis and some are still suffering. Each lost week brings even more physical and mental fatigue to those who cannot be relieved. This puts the ships at serious risk and leads the captains of such vessels and crews to have to deal with very difficult situations on their vessels.

Above reasons therefore prompt us to ask you to do everything possible to ensure that seafarers have access to vaccines as quickly as possible.

We remain at Your disposal to discuss the matter and to assist in solving the above mentioned important issue.

Respectfull regards

Capt ; H. ARDILLON  
CESMA President