



Fifth meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee established under Article XIII of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended

Geneva, 7–11 April 2025

► Draft Resolution on the Protection of Seafarers in Substandard Shipping

Submitted by Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden

The Special Tripartite Committee (STC) established by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office under Article XIII of the MLC, 2006, as amended, having met at its fifth meeting in Geneva from 7 to 11 April 2025,

Recalling the provisions of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, which sets out the rights of seafarers to decent working and living conditions,

Noting that Article IV of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, outlines the fundamental rights of seafarers to decent working and living conditions, which are often compromised in substandard shipping practices;

Noting that Regulation 1.4 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, addresses the responsibilities of recruitment and placement services (RPS) to ensure that seafarers are not subjected to exploitation or fraudulent practices, which includes provisions for the licensing or certification of RPS;

Noting that Regulation 2.1 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, ensures that seafarers have clear and enforceable employment agreements, which is crucial in preventing fraudulent employment practices;

Noting that Regulation 2.2 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, mandates timely payment of wages to seafarers, which is often a concern in substandard shipping operations;

Noting that Regulation 2.3 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, sets standards for working hours and rest periods to protect seafarers from exploitation and ensure their well-being;

Noting that Regulation 4.3 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, requires shipowners to provide a safe and hygienic working environment, which is often neglected in substandard shipping;

Noting that Regulations 5.1 and 5.2 of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, outlines the responsibilities of flag States and port States respectively to ensure compliance with the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006;

Recognizing the ongoing challenges posed by substandard shipping, including fraudulent recruitment and placement services (RPS);

Acknowledging the need for a coordinated and comprehensive approach to address these issues;

1. Requests the ILO, in consultation with the International Maritime Organization, to conduct a joint study to investigate the prevalence and impact of substandard shipping on seafarers. The study should include recommendations for policy and regulatory measures to address these issues effectively.
2. Reaffirms its commitment to protecting the rights and welfare of seafarers and calls upon all stakeholders to collaborate in addressing the challenges posed by substandard shipping including fraudulent RPS practices. Through collective efforts, we can ensure a safer and more equitable maritime industry for all seafarers.