

MEMBER ALERT



Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Manager
One Battery Park Plaza 31st Fl., New York, NY 10004 USA
Tel: +1 212 847 4500
Fax: +1 212 847 4599

www.american-club.com

JULY 10, 2014

UKRAINE TO OFFICIALLY CLOSE SEA PORTS IN CRIMEA FOR INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING

On June 16, 2014, the Ukrainian Ministry of Infrastructure issued Directive No. 255 “On Closure of Sea Ports.” According to clause 1 thereof, Ukraine shall close its sea ports on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which has been officially recognized by the Ukrainian Parliament as a temporarily occupied territory for international shipping.

In particular, the following ports are to be closed: Kerch, Theodosia, Sevastopol, Yalta, and Evpatoria. Moreover, there has been an announcement that the Ukrainian maritime authorities are currently not active on the territory of the Republic of Crimea and the administrations of the above mentioned ports are to be liquidated by virtue of clause 2 of the said Directive.

Directive No. 255, registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on June 24, 2014 under No. 690/25467, will come into force after it is officially published, which is expected to be on July 15, 2014, taking on legal force immediately thereafter.

Directive No. 255 has been adopted following the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated April 30, 2014, No. 578-p covering issues of sea and river transportation and in pursuance of general rules provided under the Law of Ukraine, No. 1207-VII “On Assurance of Rights and Freedoms and Legal Regime on the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine.”

The breach of said law may entail negative consequences and penalties to be imposed on masters and crew members, as well as on ships and shipowners. There is a special article on the above subject posted at <http://www.dias-co.com/index.php?page=14>.

It is worth noting that although Directive No. 255 has not come into force yet, Moldavia has already expressed its willingness to support a prohibition on calling at Crimean ports for vessels flying the flag of that state. There is an expectation that more countries are to come to a decision to join this practice in the near future.

As the situation develops and in view of avoiding consequent restrictions and fines, there is a strong recommendation that all shipowners keep their ships away from Crimean ports.

Your Managers would like to thank Dias Co. Ltd., Ukraine for the information provided for this Member Alert.