

To: The London P&I Club

Dear Sirs,

Today situation in most cities of the east and south of Ukraine remains the same as described in our previous notification of 02 March 2014. It can even be said with confidence that the tension has slackened a little. The meetings and demonstrations are still going on but without use of force of violence.

In two cities only - Donetsk and Simferopol the situation now is a little more difficult (as compared with 02.03.2014) but no serious collisions between the supporters of different political groupings took place.

I can't judge how the Ukrainian events are described by mass media of various European countries but I'm sure that their colleagues in both Ukraine and Russia are far from being objective and unprejudiced, especially when the matter concerns the events in Crimea. Their reports do not always keep straight to reality and in some cases deepen the confusion, anxiety and apprehensions of people.

Our Crimean branches, as well as our employees returning from business trips to Crimea, report that the ports of Sevastopol, Kerch and Theodosia are relatively calm. Crimean ports keep functioning in the usual manner and no mass disturbances can be observed.

The south-western Ukrainian ports Mariupol and Berdyansk remain quiet as before.

The same can be said about the ports of the south region of Ukraine: Nikolaev, Dneprobugskiy, Oktyabrskiy, as well as Odessa, Ilyichevsk and Yuzhny. The meetings are going on the central squares of the cities. There are no aggressive crowds in the streets. However, we would like to repeat our recommendation for the foreign crew members: please keep off the areas where any meetings or demonstrations are taking place.

The situation in the port of Kherson is still a bit tenser than in other ports of Ukraine. It is a small town and walking around the crew members may suddenly find themselves at the very epicenter of a meeting or commotion. We would also recommend foreign crews to refrain from coming ashore in this port.

On the whole, we can say that we see no any threatening tendencies giving reasons to apprehend stoppage of work of Ukrainian ports – absolutely all ports of the country function without any interruptions.

It seems to me that the political tension is going somewhat down these two days. My opinion is confirmed by the fact that Russian troops, after their military exercises, are returning to their usual dispositions. Some of the statements made by president Putin during his recent press-conference also give grounds to some optimism in my opinion. Though he still does not approve of the “armed takeover” of power in Ukraine and does not consider the present Parliament as well as Government legitimate but it seems, though he was neither categorical nor personal, that even he appreciates to what depths of chaos the previous government headed by Yanukovich had led the country. It was clear that Putin understands that the main driving motive of the events on “Maydan” in Kiev was the people's wish to see a new regimen in Ukraine free from total corruption, stealing, bribery and prosecution's arbitrariness.

From: DIAS Marine Consulting p.c., Odessa, Ukraine

Date: 4 March 2014