



# Maritime safety: EP improves seafarers' training and working conditions

Plenary sessions

**Parliament endorsed crucial improvements to minimum levels of training, updated medical fitness requirements and tougher certification standards for seafarers on Tuesday. This will bring EU law into line with the revised standards set by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and adopted by member states.**

The IMO's recent update of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarer's (STCW) made significant changes designed to prevent fraud in obtaining certificates, raise medical standards and improve security training, including measures related to piracy and armed robbery.

MEPs have also ensured that the new rules will preserve the EU's stricter limits on exemptions to minimum rest periods and they insist that the requirements for rest periods must be maintained in the case of drill.

In addition, the text, which has been agreed with the Council, mandates the Commission to collect data on personnel operating in EU waters, for statistical purposes, in order to get a better picture of the seafarer profession in Europe.

The legislation was adopted 619 votes in favour to 16 against and 16 abstentions..

*Procedure: Co-decision, 1st reading agreement*

## Contact :

### Michaela FINDEIS

BXL: (+32) 2 28 31141

STR: (+33) 3 881 73603

PORT: (+32) 498 98 33 32

EMAIL: [tran-press@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:tran-press@europarl.europa.eu)

### Catherine BUNYAN

Tel.: (+353) 1 605 7932

STR: (+33) 3 881 74828

PORT: (+353) 86 855 9423

EMAIL: [catherine.bunyan@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:catherine.bunyan@europarl.europa.eu)