



## Hundreds of seafarers still stuck in Ukraine

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There remain more than 80 with more than 400 stuck around Ukrainian ports, notwithstanding the opening six weeks ago of the Black Sea Corridor, intended both to permit more grain to be exported from Ukraine and for locked-in ships and seafarers to return to the Mediterranean via the Black Sea and the Bosphorus.

The agreement, which was reached in late July and which began to be implemented from early August, was designed to bring staples to developing nations, although Russia has asserted that in fact only a minority of the exports are going to the countries for which they were intended.

The initiative involved only dry bulk ships from three Ukrainian ports. That left the dozens of non-qualifying vessels, such as tankers and any not in Odesa, Chornomorsk or Yuzhne, stuck in other ports.

ICS Chairman Emanuele Grimaldi told a news briefing that “the corridor was made only for the purpose of loading the grain to leave. You can understand they (Ukraine) are at war and there are mines around.”

When Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24<sup>th</sup> this year there were some 2,000 seafarers left stranded aboard more than 94 vessels in Ukrainian ports.

Grimaldi said that the ICS had discussions last week the International Maritime Organization in an attempt to accelerate the release of the ships and their crew. “It is not easy and [is] a complicated matter,” he said.