

Ukraine sets out plan to export more grain to poor countries

By admin On November 17, 2022 In Cargo, Insurance Marine News, Keep, Marine Hull, Marine Liability, Political Risk, Credit & Finance

Ukraine has said that it wants to renew and extend the Black Sea Corridor grain deal signed in late July and which is due to expire at the end of this week.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy told the G20 nations this week that Ukraine wants to feed at least 5m more people facing acute food shortages by the end of next spring. President Zelenskiy also told the G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, that the UN-brokered corridor deal should be extended indefinitely and include two more ports – Mykolaiv and Olvia.

Three ports – Odesa, Chornomorsk and Yuzhne – are already included in the deal, which Zelenskiy said had enabled Ukraine to export more than 10m tonnes of food products since July.

Andriy Yermak, the chief of Ukraine's presidential staff, said on the Telegram messaging app that Ukraine would set aside a portion of harvested wheat for partner countries to purchase on behalf of African countries on the brink of famine.

“The programme envisages providing grain to at least five million people by the end of spring 2023,” he wrote, adding that it would be implemented in partnership with the World Food Programme.

He said a ship carrying 27,000 tonnes of wheat had already left for Ethiopia as part of the programme and in coordination with the German government.

One of Russia's problems with the existing Black Sea Corridor deal has been that too much of the grain was going to EU countries and too little to those developing nations in Africa. Russia also wants to “unstick” problems with exporting Russian fertilizer through the Black Sea, despite that product not being part of Western sanctions.

Meanwhile, a batch of 20,000 tonnes of Russian fertilizer is to be delivered from the Netherlands to Malawi on a UN-chartered vessel.

David Beasley, Executive Director of World Food Programme (WFP) said that the transport would be “the first of many vessels that will transport critical supplies of Russian fertilizer to nations across Africa”.

According to UN, the first shipment of 20,000 tonnes will leave on November 21st.