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Circular Letter No.4231/Add.16  
26 January 2021

To: All IMO Member  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of Italy**

The Government of the Republic of Italy has sent the attached communication, dated 25 January 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

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## Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport

*Italian Coast Guard Headquarters  
Safety of Navigation and  
Maritime Security Department*

Rome, date of issue  
(p.o.c. Rear Admiral UH (ITCG) Luigi GIARDINO  
e-mail: [segreteria.reparto6@mit.gov.it](mailto:segreteria.reparto6@mit.gov.it))

HE Mr. Kitack Lim  
Secretary General of the  
International Maritime Organization

### Subject: Measures to Address Covid-19.

Dear Secretary-General Lim,

The government of Italy presents its compliments to the International Maritime Organization and is honoured to take this opportunity to commend you for the diligent and timely work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and especially for the work done to support seafarers, confirmed by circular letters No. 4204/Add.35 and Add-35-rev-1.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, ever since the temporary restriction of non-essential travel to Italy, the government of the Republic of Italy, by means of the decree of 22 March 2020, has considered sea transport a necessary and essential service and, consequently, seafarers as essential workers.

In the light of the above, confirming that seafarers are designated as "key workers", in order to facilitate crew changeover and repatriation, I ask the Secretariat to kindly have this information circulated to all member states of the IMO and to add Italy to the list of countries that have designated seafarers as "key workers".

Your valuable attention to this matter is very much appreciated.

The Italian government avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport

Dr Paola DE MICHELI