



Luxembourg, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

**Circular CAM 04/2023**

O/Ref.: JS/115931

Subject: **Increased number of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea**

To: All Accredited Shipping Managers, ship owners, ship operators, Designated Persons Ashore, Masters of Luxembourg flagged ships, Recognised Organisations and Flag State Inspectors

The present Circular aims to draw your attention to the fact that the number of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea is increasing significantly. As a result, every vessel sailing in this area shall at all times maintain a sharp look-out by sight and hearing, as well as by all other available means.

In this regard, it is hereby recalled that pursuant to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, Article 98(1)) and the 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS, Chapter V), **the master has an obligation to render assistance to those in distress at sea without regard to their nationality, status or the circumstances in which they are found.**

Moreover, according to the SOLAS Convention (Chapter V), UNCLOS (Article 98(2)) and the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR Convention, Chapters 2.1.10 and 1.3.2), State Parties need to ensure arrangements for distress communication and coordination in their area of responsibility and for the rescue of people in distress at sea in the vicinity of their coast lines. As it stands, Search and Rescue (SAR) and disembarkation activities of EU Member States are currently not covered by a common EU legal framework, except for those activities carried out in the context of joint operations at sea led by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex).

In Luxembourg, the Maritime Administration and the Directorate of Immigration are working in close collaboration. Both authorities are taking part in the meetings of the European Contact Group on Search and Rescue, so that useful information and the latest developments in this area can be shared within the fleet.

The Luxembourg Maritime Administration would like to remind all the parties concerned that in case of a SAR operation, the vessel must immediately contact the Designated Person Ashore (DPA) and/or Company Security Officer (CSO) who will relay this information accordingly.

Please refer to circulars CAM 10/2020 and CAM 01/2013 (*updated version 30 August 2022*) for additional contact information. Good communication and effective collaboration among all parties involved is essential.

You are kindly requested to ensure adequate dissemination of this information within your company and to the relevant Luxembourg flagged vessels.



(s) André Hansen  
Government Commissioner  
for maritime affairs