



Merchant Shipping Directorate



## NAVIGATION IN BLACK SEA REGION IN VIEW OF THE ESCALATING SITUATION

### ***Merchant Shipping Notice 179***

*Notice to Ship Owners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,  
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations*

The Directorate wishes to draw the attention of all concerned to the escalating security tensions in Ukraine and according to reports in the public domain, all commercial operations at Ukrainian sea ports have been suspended.

Masters and operators of Maltese ships that operate or that may operate in this area are strongly advised to evaluate the local security circumstances to determine whether their continued presence/or proceeding to ports in the area is safe.

Masters and crew shall at all times observe restrictions imposed by local authorities. It is to be noted that in view of the situation, port services may be disrupted and security levels in ports may change at short notice. As required in terms of SOLAS XI-2/4.3 and XI-2/4.4, ships shall respond to the MARSEC level set by the Contracting Government.

To this effect, if ship masters and operators of Maltese ships, in their judgment, deem it necessary to proceed to this area, they are strongly advised to proceed with utmost caution and in a high state of vigilance, implementing higher ship security level procedures as outlined in the approved ship security plans whilst trading in these areas.

Merchant Shipping Directorate

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