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Federación Europea de los Trabajadores del Transporte

To the member of ETF Inland Waterways Section
Nautilus International

16 September 2016

Dear All,

It was with great shock that we have learned about the catastrophic accident in which the Swiss flagged “*Viking Freya*” was involved on Sunday night 11 September.

With sadness we inform you that two Hungarian crew members (aged 33 and 49), including the boat master, died because the wheelhouse was not retracted before sailing under a rail bridge on the Danube. Luckily the 180 North-American passengers were all evacuated successfully.

A recent German study on psychological stress factors in inland waterways highlighted the hazards and stress involved in passing low bridges. Statistics also show an average of 16 bridge collisions a year in the western part of the German canal network alone.

On 11 September another accident occurred with the Swiss flagged “*Anesha*” from Phoenix Tours owned by Scylla that stranded on the banks of the Danube near Vojka, Slovakia. There were 200 people on board – 150 passengers and 50 crewmembers. After a check to ensure there was no hull damage the voyage was continued.

Some deny the consequences of fatigue but unfortunately the sad events of last Sunday demonstrate that these accidents occur more frequently when the season comes to an end.

We express our sincere condolences to the families and friends of the two Hungarian crew members that have lost their lives in this tragic accident.

In solidarity,

Eduardo CHAGAS
General Secretary



President Lars Lindgren

Vice Presidents Alexander Kirchner
Ekaterina Yordanova

General Secretary Eduardo Chagas

