

Dear colleagues,

With colleague Istvan Kiss, I worked on the Viking Sun for two years. It concerns me very much to hear of this misfortune. I hope to hear that all the circumstances which have led to the death of our colleagues are completely resolved.

Now two of our nautical employees have paid for the profit motive of the entrepreneur and management with their lives. When will the authorities finally wake up and put a stop to the drive to optimise profits in the construction of passenger vessels and the poor training of crew?

When will schedules once again be written to reflect nautical aspects, compliance with rest periods, and ships again staffed with sufficient and well-trained staff? When will hotel ships no longer be built on the allowable limits, but reasonable nautical sense?

How many people will lose their lives before action is taken? Probably only when fare-paying passengers are killed and the sources of revenue are at risk. Then it will certainly be too late. I hope our union will ask the same questions and also that we organise more. It is not only the prosperity of individuals that counts, it goes now to the future and confidence in a profession.

Perhaps take some of my words as food for thought. I would be very happy if lessons are drawn from this tragedy for the future of training and further human suffering is prevented.

Kapitän Harald Ludwig