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Amendments of 2014 to the *Maritime Labour Convention*. (Geneva, 24 June 2014)

The Maritime Union of Australia emphatically endorses and supports the amendments of 2014 to the Maritime Labour Convention.

Essentially the changes provide increased protection for abandoned seafarers and security for compensation if a seafarer is killed, or suffers long-term disability.

At the April meeting of the ILO in 2014 I was privileged to speak to a joint proposal by seafarers' unions and shipowners to address the issue of abandonment, and to ensure that flag states have in place a financial security system to provide abandoned seafarers with outstanding wages, repatriation and other reasonable costs until they arrive home.

As president of the ITF I offered that -*"Today's vote represents a genuine turning point for the convention. It proves that seafarers, shipowners and governments are committed to continuously reviewing the implementation of the MLC in order to ensure that it is a truly global and living instrument for the protection and benefit of all seafarers. Abandonment is a particularly dark stain on the industry and the new amendments are real and concrete relief for seafarers facing that dire predicament."*

I congratulate everyone involved in this landmark improvement to the Convention which seafarers and the ITF have come to regard as the Seafarers Bill of Rights.

Yours sincerely

Paddy Crumlin
National Secretary