

From : SCHELDEDJIK

To : Seamen's club Le Havre

20210325

Dear all,

I hope you don't mind writing to you in English. Although I speak reasonably French, writing in French is not a strong point!

As we had our call in Le Havre the 17th of March, we were really overwelmed by the warmth of your welcome. Of course we really appreciated the baguettes and croissants, but for all the gesture filled us with joy.

We as seafarers are still appreciated!

In this Covid-time life of seafarers is uncomfortable but mostly uncertain.

In many countries we are seen as a potential hazard which can infect a whole country, although they forget that we live in a nearly perfect quarantine.

Local authorities will then choose for the easiest way: No shore leave allowed.

Our Filipino crew serve mostly quite long contracts and if you are not allowed to go ashore for some diversion, life can be tough!

Many countries are also closed for crew changes, which is also the case for our next destination in Greece. Let's hope that during our 13 days voyage things will be better there, because we have 2 crewmembers who became father during the time they were on board. So they have never seen their newborns!

The uncertainty if they can go home or not is stressing.

I know our crewing department as well as our manning agency are doing their utmost best to have them together with their beloved.

Please don't under-estimate the gesture of your visit on board our good ship Scheldedijk and the nice surprise treat, it really meant a lot to us.

And also many thanks for helping us to go to the supermarket and the nice talks in the Seamen's club.

We wish you Godspeed and hope you will continue your good work for a long time!

*A la prochaine fois Au Havre!*

Bien de salutations! Best regards,

On behalf of all crew,

Captain Scheldedijk

PS The picture we took was in Dunkirk and crew was very much willing to pose for you.

