



## **Press Release.**

The Professional Yachtsmen's Association is to assist Members of the International Labour Organisation to assess the impact of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 on yachting. The Professional Yachtsmen's Association (PYA) welcomes the vast majority of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006). MLC 2006 has been developed by the members of International Labour Organisation (ILO). The aim of MLC is to improve terms and conditions of employment for all seafarers.

However, the PYA is concerned that there may be problems for yachting when applying the crew accommodation criteria that are contained within this convention on smaller yachts, the gross tonnage of which is yet to be identified.

Earlier this year, PYA met with the ILO and expressed these concerns. As part of this ongoing dialogue, the ILO has asked PYA to carry out both quantitative and qualitative studies on yachting. This press release is to present the brief for the quantitative study. The aim of this study is to apply the MLC criteria for crew accommodation on existing yacht designs in order to measure the changes that will be caused once MLC is ratified.

In order to develop this brief, the PYA has worked closely with the Super Yacht Builders (SYBAss) and the International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA). The ILO has also been given the opportunity to review the brief.

For the qualitative study: PYA is in the process of developing a questionnaire with the Seafarers International Research Centre (SIRC) to allow this social study to be carried out. PYA anticipates being able to release this questionnaire within the next few weeks. The aim of this study is to highlight the different life style of crew working on yachts as opposed to other professional seafarers.

For both these studies to be meaningful and for them to have any impact in the eyes of the ILO, it is vitally important that as many people as possible involved in professional yachting contribute and participate.

Andrew Schofield.  
President, PYA  
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