

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: samedi 18 avril 2020 19:42

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Update from Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. (the Oasis of the Seas)

Dear Commissioner Valean,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with our [REDACTED] in Berlaymont on 30 January.

We would also like to thank the European Commission for providing the helpful *Guidelines on the protection of health, repatriation and travel arrangements for seafarers* during the current crisis. Our company is working around the clock to find repatriation solutions for over 30.000 valued employees from around the world.

We noticed a written [Parliamentary Question](#) by MEP Brando Benifei regarding one of our ships, the *Oasis of the Seas*. The purpose of this message is to provide you with input that your services may wish to consider sharing with the EEAS (the question was addressed to the EU High Representative, VP Josep Borrell, whose cabinet is in copy).

Regarding the medical situation:

The PQ refers to 60 confirmed coronavirus cases onboard the *Oasis of the Seas* (the source is unknown to us). Based on today's medical report the ship has 12 crew members in isolation with COVID-19 like symptoms. We are not allowed to confirm them either way, due to the unreliability of the rapid tests. They are all in stable condition, segregated in a specific area of the ship. None of these 12 crew members are EU nationals.

In addition, we have 11 asymptomatic crew members in quarantine, because they were potentially exposed through close contacts with those who are now in isolation. There are 1546 healthy crew members onboard the ship (asymptomatic and non-exposed).

Strict medical guidelines are followed in order to keep our crew members safe and healthy. The number of crew with any symptoms is diminishing onboard the *Oasis of the Seas*. The symptomatic crew members can be treated onboard, but we would of course organize a medical evacuation to a shore side hospital in the unlikely event that anyone's condition becomes critical.

Regarding repatriation:

We are working to find solutions but have several travel restrictions to work through, also within the EU Member States. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) first banned disembarkation from ships with any suspected cases. They then banned cruise lines from using any commercial flights for repatriation which has placed a great demand on limited charter resources. We are committed, however, to working with the CDC and other government officials to secure charter flights for the repatriation of crewmembers as quickly and safely as possible.

We would welcome if the EU / EEAS would continue to draw political attention to the global humanitarian challenge with hundreds of thousands of seafarers who are currently unable to return home. The lack of reciprocity is striking. Australia, for instance, demands us to repatriate their nationals immediately, while they ordered our ships – even with zero cases or symptoms – to leave their territorial waters, without allowing any crew movement, including many EU nationals.

To conclude: we would like to assure you that there is no escalating medical crisis onboard the *Oasis of the Seas*, and we will confirm repatriation flights for the European crew members as soon as the CDC approves our plan, which we

expect will happen next week. We are also likely to sail across the Atlantic with one to two ships to bring a large number of Europeans back home, not least thanks to the Commission's encouragement for the EU to keep certain ports open for such a purpose.

We would be pleased to provide any additional information that your services may require.

Thank you and best regards,

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Government Relations, Europe & Asia-Pacific
Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.

[Redacted]

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