

CROATIAN SHIPMASTERS'S ASSOCIATION

ZADAR CROATIA

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COURT OF PATRAS

President of Court

PATRAS GREECE

Subject: Appeal for our colleague Captain Kristo Laptalo.

Dear Sir,

Our dear colleague Captain Kristo Laptalo from Dubrovnik in July this year was found guilty of trafficking narcotics in connection of 51, 6 kg of cocaine that was found concealed into two boxes of bananas, among 27.000 boxes, discharged by Coral Sea at the port of Aegion in Greece on July 12 last year, and he was given a sentence of 14 years in prison by the court in Patras.

Captain Krišo Laptalo was sentenced because he was the commander of the ship where drugs was found, based on "command responsibility". A commander of the cargo ship has never been charged for goods found within the original packaged boxes, crates etc. It is normal and logic that the responsibility of the ship, captain and the crew is that the package is untouched, and not for the contents of untouched boxes.

We are appealing to You that Captain Kristo Laptalo is not charged and prosecuted for "command responsibility", which is according to our knowledge unusual in judicial practice, but to have a legal proceedings based on evidences and witnesses, that could eventually charge him for his personal involvement in this incriminating act.

We thank you in advance for your understanding.

Zadar, November 17, 2008

President

Captain Nino Dunat