

MedCruise participated in a meeting with IAPH, IMO, WHO, UNWTO, CLIA and other worldwide cruise ports association, 09 September 2020

In line with the objectives of the Post COVID-19 Committee of Experts, on 09 September 2020, MedCruise attended a **joint online meeting with IAPH, IMO, WHO, UNWTO, CLIA and other worldwide cruise port associations**. The aim of the meeting was to develop a common agenda for the safety resumption of the cruise activities. In this meeting, MedCruise was represented by MedCruise President, Mr Airam Diaz, and by MedCruise Director of Cooperation with other Associations, Ms Theodora Riga. This was the first of a series of meetings where to exchange best practices on communication with local community stakeholders and to strengthen the voice of the cruise ports at global level¹.

During the first joint-meeting, IMO, UNWTO and CLIA made, separately, a presentation. After the presentations, all Port Associations had the opportunity to take the floor to update the situation in their respective regions. Finally, an open discussion on the safe resumption of cruise operations worldwide took place.

In accordance with the agreement taken at the 135th Board of Directors meeting and at the 56th General Assembly, the **Post COVID-19 Committee of Experts** was created, Committee led by MedCruise Director of Projects & Studies, Ms Cristina De Gregori, and by MedCruise Director of Cooperation with other Associations, Ms Theodora Riga. The Committee of Experts is composed by 13 members and 9 observers from both MedCruise Ports and Associate members.

The main objectives of the Post COVID-19 CoE are to join forces, expertise and discuss the actions to be taken during the pandemic in order to recover, at the earliest, the cruise traffic in the MedCruise region.

The kick-off meeting of the Committee took place on 15 July 2020 and since then, its members and observers are meeting on a regular basis. During the second meeting, 05 August 2020, the CoE invited Prof. Christos Hadjichristodoulou, Expert Professor of Hygiene and Epidemiology at the University of Thessaly and Healthy Gateways Joint Action Coordinator who made a presentation of the **Interim advice for restarting cruise ship operations after lifting restrictive measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic**. The presentation was followed by a Q&A discussion.

The 3rd meeting of the Post COVID-19 CoE took place on 02 September 2020 in order to analyse the situation of MedCruise countries in depth and to reach consensual conclusions to be presented during the Cruise Ports joint-meeting.

Among the actions undertaken by the Post COVID-19 Committee of Experts there is the Cruise Operations Status: development of a Master document containing the most updated information of all MedCruise Port members' status. •