

## Metinvest starts using liner service from Mariupol port again

Metinvest Group is resuming the use of liner services from Mariupol port to deliver steel goods to Europe. With the support of the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine, shipping lines were registered in December 2014 to deliver goods from Mariupol port to Italy, Bulgaria, Turkey and Spain.

The monthly volume of seaborne shipments through the registered lines will amount to 200,000 tons. Metinvest-Shipping will act the cargo owner's agent and Portinvest as the ship owner's agent. The vessels will be provided by Nova Marine (Italy) and Canbaz (Turkey).

The resumption of liner service in Ukraine's current difficult environment proves an interest from international partners in building stable and long-term relationships with Ukrainian shippers and the willingness of the Ukrainian government to help businesses when the improvement of export companies' stability is at stake.

The resumption of liner service will help Metinvest involve ship owners with optimal fleets and improve the regularity of exports. This will enhance the company's competitiveness in markets on the Black and Mediterranean seas. Mariupol port and fleet operators, on the other hand, will be able to better plan operations and increase their utilization.

### **Andrey Smirnov, Metinvest Group's head of seaborne shipments:**

*"Despite the situation in the east of the countries and the difficulties we face with the delivery of raw materials and finished goods, we continue to implement innovative solutions. The opening of the shipping lines is a vivid example of cooperation between the government and business. This is a decision everyone will benefit from - cargo owners, ports, ship owners and the country as a whole. This is a progressive practice that will allow for improving the efficiency of seaborne shipments and increasing cargo transshipment."*