



# HM Government of Gibraltar

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Ministry of Financial Services  
and Gaming

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Gibraltar-Registered Ship Rescues 235 Refugees**

The Gibraltar-registered Dry Cargo ship, the 'CONSTANCE' was involved in a dramatic rescue of over two hundred refugees from a sinking boat off the coast of Italy this week.

The 'CONSTANCE', commanded by Captain Oleg Skobel, responded to an emergency request from the Greek maritime authorities to rescue persons from a vessel in distress. Captain Skobel and his crew successfully engaged the vessel and embarked 235 refugees onto the Gibraltar ship.

The Greek coastguard advised the 'CONSTANCE' to proceed to Augusta, Sicily, where the rescued persons were successfully disembarked.

The Minister with responsibility for Maritime Services, the Hon. Albert Isola, has written to Captain Skobel of the 'CONSTANCE' to congratulate him on his crew's bravery in the rescue, as well as the calm and responsible way in which the situation was handled.

Richard Montado, the Gibraltar Maritime Administrator said, "It is sad to note that there are increasing numbers of people crossing the Mediterranean Sea in flimsy craft in a desperate attempt to escape from regional conflicts and extreme economic hardship. The Master and crew of the CONSTANCE have demonstrated tremendous courage in saving the lives of more than 200 people, in the face of a complex and potentially dangerous operation. I must also highlight the role of the managers of the vessel, Briese Schiffahrts GmbH & Co., in providing support to the crew and assisting with the logistics. A major tragedy has been averted on this occasion."

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