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**OPEN REGISTRIES OF SHIPS FOR CHEAP FLAGS AND THEIR IMPACT  
ON THE STRENGTHENING OF SOCIAL DIALOGUE**

Maritime shipping is an example of an industry driven by the offshore system, which illustrates the consequences of globalization process. This system is characterised by a transnational network of banking, crewing and corporations that support legal international trade transactions at a global scale. It enables ship owners to avoid social responsibility, social protection of seafarers, taxation and legal liability. The trade union movement, which represents seafarers, has adopted a policy against "flag of convenience" (FOC) ships. One way of achieving that aim is to conclude collective agreements at the supranational level, which would define the conditions of decent work on FOC ships.