



ul. Ludwiki 4, 01-226 Warszawa, tel./fax: (22) 849 57 31, (22) 849 90 82, (22) 848 04 83, (022) 848 04 82  
e-mail: pyabiuro@pya.org.pl, pyaoffice@pya.org.pl, website: www.pya.org.pl

L. dz. PZ/SP/W-208/ 2012

Warsaw, 09.03.2012 r.

**Pablo Masseroni**  
**President**  
**Argentina Yachting Federation**

Venezuela 110 Piso 12° "A"  
Buenos Aires, C1095AAD  
Argentina

*Dear Sir,*

On behalf of Polish Yachting Association I would like to draw your attention to the unacceptable situation taking place in Rio Gallegos port to the catamaran type yacht "GEMINI 3" belonging to Cpt. Roman Paszke (POL).

Captain Roman Paszke had to interrupt his non-stop solo cruise around the world due to the scale of noticed damages of the vessel when he was in the vicinity of the port of Rio Gallegos.

After having the yacht repaired, the carrier paid all the cost connected with the stay of the vessel in the port, including the fee for the tug of the catamaran, in total USD 50 thousand. Then, in accordance with the local procedures, the "GEMINI 3" obtained the necessary sailing permits from the Argentinean inspectors allowing it to return on its journey.

However, just before the yacht's embarking on its return trip to Poland, with the Polish four-person crew, one of the Argentinean companies lodged an unlawful financial claim demanding the Polish carrier to pay an additional fee of over USD 300 thousand for alleged participation in the "rescue assist". It is an unlawful claim because the vessel did not take part in such a rescue action nor was it asked for such assistance. According to the port officials of Rio Gallegos and independent experts in international marine law, the claims may be a form of extortion from foreign ships, which does happen in these areas as local informers say. However, by decision of the local authorities, until the dispute is settled, GEMINI 3 may not leave the port and the Polish crew is banned from the yacht.

Considering the arguments mentioned above I ask you to intervene in the matter.

*Yours faithfully*

Zbigniew Stosio

Secretary General  
Polish Yachting Association