Bourbon Rhode vessel sinks in Atlantic Ocean 23:53, 28 September 2019



A search for eleven missing crew members is under way. Photo from Bourbon Offshore The offshore tug Bourbon Rhode has sunk near Martinique island in the Atlantic Ocean with three crew members reported as rescued.

"It has been confirmed that the vessel has sunk. The search continues," France-based Bourbon Offshore said in a statement, as reported by Gcaptain.com on September 28. Three crew members from the offshore tug (including two Ukrainian citizens) have been rescued from a liferaft in the Atlantic Ocean. They are currently taken in charge by the medical support team onboard the commercial vessel, which provided assistance, and are currently placed under medical observation, the report said. A search for eleven missing crew members, including Ukrainians, continues.

Two Ukrainians rescued from missing Bourbon Rhode offshore tug – Ukraine's MFA Sept. 28, 2019

A rescue operation is underway.

Deputy Director of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's consular service department Vasyl Kyrylych says two Ukrainian citizens, crew members of the missing offshore tug Bourbon Rhode, have been rescued in the Atlantic Ocean.

"According to the ship owner, three crew members have been saved. Two of them are citizens of Ukraine," Kyrylych wrote on Twitter on September 28. A rescue operation is underway, he added. According to the official, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is in contact with representative of the ship owner and the rescue center. As UNIAN reported earlier, on September 26, the Bourbon Rhode vessel disappeared near Martinique island in the Atlantic Ocean with Ukrainian citizens among crew members on board. The search operation is conducted by the French Maritime Rescue and Coordination Center Fort De France (MRCC).

Bourbon Rhode Confirmed Sunk

BY THE MARITIME EXECUTIVE 2019-09-29 16:57:11

Rescue teams have recovered a lifeboat with three *Bourbon Rhode* crew members on board, 11 remain missing.

The Luxembourg-flag tug supply vessel *Bourbon Rhode* was in transit 1,200 nautical miles off Martinique Island and 60 nautical miles South-South East from the eye of category 4 hurricane Lorenzo when she began taking on water at the stern in the adverse weather conditions.

It was confirmed on Sunday that the vessel has sunk. The search for survivors continues in weather conditions that are improving. On Saturday at nightfall, a capsized fast rescue craft was spotted first by a National Hurricane Center aircraft and then by the French Navy's Falcon 50 aircraft. A commercial vessel engaged in the operation is currently headed in its direction in order to try to recover it.

Bourbon has released a statement saying: "The search for tug supply vessel Bourbon Rhode continues with the full support of Cross AG (Regional Operational Center of Surveillance and Rescue) and the French navy, under the authority of the Prefect representing the French national maritime authority. Five commercial vessels have changed course in order to bring assistance to the rescue teams. A Falcon 50 of the French navy as well as the aircraft of the American National Hurricane Center (NHC) conducted numerous overflights of the search area. The French navy's surveillance frigate *Ventôse* and Panther helicopter will join the operation on September 30."

