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LEGAL OPINION

Parallel tasks in sea employment

A chief-cook was employed onboard a vessel. Performing his duties, he was also chopping the meat needed for the preparation of the meals as the vessel had no butcher provided in her crew list.

The chief-cook requested additional remuneration for the performance of the butcher's tasks in parallel with his chief-cook tasks. The Court considered the fact the cutting of the meat is a side activity for the meals preparation, which is within chief-cook's tasks. It also considered there was no butcher position provided in the vessel's crew. Accordingly, it rejected the claim.

Supreme Court Judgment no 326/2017, Presiding: A. Karellou, Rapporteur Judge: P. Katsiroubas, Attorneys at law: V. Saxonis, Ev. Papantonopoulou, Maritime Law Review vol. 45, p. 81.

NOTE: The fact that no butcher position was provided in the crew list, was crucial for the rejection of the claim. If it was provided, then chopping would be performed by the butcher, and possible assumption of this task by the chief-cook, would be considered indeed as additional parallel employment and would deserve relevant payment. However here, it was held to fall within the broad tasks of the chief-cook.

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