



24.6.2010

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

**Subject: Petition 1635/2009 by J. A. C. M. van der Togt (Dutch), on behalf of StuurGroepdeMaas, concerning changes to the requirements in respect of the level-1 certificate of helmanship**

### 1. Summary of petition

The petitioner calls on the European Union to make the level 1 certificate of helmanship compulsory in respect of motorised inland waterway vessels and all non-motorised vessels 7.5 metres or more in length, together with a series of practice manoeuvres and an examination, with a view to improving safety standards on European waterways. He expresses his surprise at the fact that, while a certificate of helmanship is required for a 3.5 metre inflatable craft equipped with a 6 hp motor capable of reaching a speed of 20 km/hour this is not the case for a 15 metre yacht also capable of a maximum speed of around 20km/hour.

### 2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 22 February 2010. Information requested from Commission under Rule 202(6).

### 3. Commission reply, received on 24 June 2010.

To date, no provisions on certificates of competence for operators of recreational craft have been introduced into EU law. As regards certain inland waterway vessels intended for transport of goods or passengers, the conditions for obtaining boatmaster's certificate are harmonised by Directive 96/50/EC<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 235, 17.9.1996, p.31

At international level, the United Nations, under Resolution N° 40 adopted by the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (Inland Transport Committee, Economic Commission for Europe), established the International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft. The Commission follows the implementation of this non-binding resolution in the Member States.

The Commission has the intention to consult in due course Member States as well as stakeholders, including industry, in order to gather views on the opportunity to make the above-mentioned resolution binding at EU level or, alternatively, on the possibility to harmonise the rules for certificates of competence for operators of recreational craft in the Union.