

**Question for written answer E-004742/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Mutual recognition of boating licences

Boating licences are regulated at the national level and most European countries require a licence in one form or another in order to sail in their waters. However, requirements for obtaining such a document vary from country to country, taking into account several factors: the navigation area, the distance from the shore, the means of propulsion, the length of the boat, engine power, etc.

The harmonisation of rules on skipper licences was discussed in the 2016 Commission study¹ on the development of nautical tourism, which concludes: 'In the absence of an EU-wide initiative to deliver greater clarity and mutual recognition of licences, effective action to tackle the problem is unlikely'.

In addition, on 25 March 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the EU strategy for sustainable tourism, calling on the Commission 'to develop initiatives for nautical and coastal tourism with regard to the recognition of skipper qualifications'.

In the light of the above, can the Commission say:

1. what measures it intends to take to implement full mutual recognition of boating licences across Europe;
2. whether it does not think it should submit a set of standards regarding the harmonisation of the subjects and examination methods required for the granting of a boating licence throughout the EU?

¹ https://www.europeanboatingindustry.eu/images/Documents/For_publications/Business-development-around-nautical-tourism.pdf