

**Priority question for written answer P-000724/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Revival of the Rotterdam Rules: full steam ahead

The contract for maritime carriage of goods is mainly governed by the 1924 Hague Rules. In 2008, the UN Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea¹, also known as the Rotterdam Rules, was adopted. These updated rules factor in new technological and commercial developments in international maritime transport, such as the growth of 'containerisation', the desire for door-to-door transport under a single contract, the development of electronic transport documentation and safety issues regarding cargo. The convention provides shippers and carriers with a binding and balanced universal system to support the operation of maritime contracts of carriage that may involve other modes of transport. However, only nine European Economic Area countries and Switzerland² have signed the convention.

1. Does the Commission agree that harmonisation related to the contract of maritime carriage between the Member States contributes to the goals of the EU's single market and further eliminates trade barriers?
2. Given the implementation of the international conventions related to the maritime carriage of passengers (Athens Convention) and air carriage of passengers and goods (Montreal Convention) in EU law³, what actions has the Commission undertaken to ensure EU regulatory harmonisation in the implementation of the Rotterdam Rules?
3. Has it discussed, or does it intend to discuss, the ratification of the 2009 Rotterdam Rules with the Member States and if not, why?

Submitted: 7.3.2024

¹ https://uncitral.un.org/en/texts/transportgoods/conventions/rotterdam_rules.

² https://uncitral.un.org/en/texts/transportgoods/conventions/rotterdam_rules/status.

³ An overview of the relevant EU legislative instruments and case law can be found at https://transport.ec.europa.eu/transport-themes/passenger-rights/air_en#:~:text=EU%20law%20protects%20air%20passengers,destruction%20or%20damage%20to%20baggage and https://transport.ec.europa.eu/transport-themes/passenger-rights/maritime_en.