

EN

P-002298/2024

Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.11.2024)

The Commission acknowledges the challenges faced by businesses and professional skippers due to the lack of mutual recognition of boating licences across Member States. The Commission also agrees that the standards for the mutual recognition of the International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft, issued under Resolution No 40 of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, are widely recognised as providing a reasonable and appropriate level of competence for day sailing in recreational craft, with due regard for navigational and crew safety and protection of the environment.

In order to explore ways to facilitate the recognition of boating licences across the EU, the Commission has initiated a study to analyse the potential advantages and drawbacks of a possible mutual recognition of boating licences for recreational boat operators, which is due to be finalised by the end of 2024. The Commission plans to host a workshop to present the results of the study to interested stakeholders and Member State representatives during the first half 2025.

It will be up to the next College to consider whether an initiative to facilitate such a recognition could be included in the Commission work programme, taking into account the results of the study and the stakeholder workshop.