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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Draft Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation and repealing Council Directives 91/672/EEC and 96/50/EC (**first reading**)
- Adoption of the legislative act
= Statement

Statement by the Republic of Slovenia and the Hellenic Republic

In the Council and its preparatory bodies the Republic of Slovenia and the Hellenic Republic have always maintained the position that those EU Member States, like Slovenia and Greece, where inland navigation is a limited and infrequent activity, primarily used for a local or/and seasonal purpose in waterways with no linkage to inland waterways of other Member States, should be exempted from the obligation to transpose and implement the provision of the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation and repealing Council Directive 96/50/EC and Council Directive 91/672/EEC.

In addition to not having inland waterways linked to the navigable network of other Member States, the Republic of Slovenia and the Hellenic Republic are exempt from transposition and implementation of the existing EU legislation in the field of inland waterways and up to the present have not transposed and implemented any relevant legislative requirements.

In the light of the above and as long as inland waterway navigation on their territory is technically not possible in accordance with the Union classification of inland waterways and as clearly stated in the Impact Assessment accompanying the respective legislative proposal, the Republic of Slovenia and the Hellenic Republic consider that there is no need and shall not be obliged to transpose the Directive.

As has been stated on several occasions during the respective negotiations within the Council and its preparatory bodies, the Republic of Slovenia and the Hellenic Republic wish to underline that the obligation to transpose and implement this Directive in cases of Member States like Slovenia and Greece imposes a disproportionate and unnecessary administrative burden with no justified added value for the inland waterways sector in the EU or for the mobility of workers.
