



MOVE D.3, Ports & Inland Navigation
Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport
European Commission

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Danish response to the European Commission's public consultation on smart and flexible EU crewing rules in inland waterway transport

**MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY,
BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL
AFFAIRS**

Denmark welcomes the public consultation on a legislative initiative on smart and flexible EU crewing rules in inland waterway transport.

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In Denmark, lakes and rivers are not part of the supply and transportation network. The EU's inland waterways regulations, derived from the Rhine Convention, were designed for large European rivers and canals. Denmark is exempt from these regulations due to its lack of significant rivers and canals, and its coastal regions' direct connection to open seas. Consequently, maritime rules apply throughout Denmark, whether on sea, lakes or canals, ensuring equally safe conditions.

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Denmark's exemption from the EU's inland waterways rules has been consistent since the first discussions, as evidenced in various EU documents, including the European Parliament and Council Decision No. 1692/96/EC and Directive (EU) 2016/1629. These documents explicitly state that there are no inland waterways in Denmark. Consequently, Denmark has not implemented the EU regulations on inland waterways, nor does Denmark approve vessels for navigation on inland waterways or issue certificates for use on inland waterways.

Therefore, Denmark does not believe that countries like Denmark without inland waterways should be covered by crewing rules in inland waterway transport.