

No. 50827

**Latvia
and
Greece**

Agreement between the government of the Republic of Latvia and the government of the Hellenic Republic on maritime transport. Athens, 27 March 2002

Entry into force: *13 December 2009, in accordance with article 20*

Authentic texts: *English, Greek and Latvian*

Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations: *Latvia, 17 May 2013*

**Lettonie
et
Grèce**

Accord entre le Gouvernement de la République de Lettonie et le Gouvernement de la République hellénique sur le transport maritime. Athènes, 27 mars 2002

Entrée en vigueur : *13 décembre 2009, conformément à l'article 20*

Textes authentiques : *anglais, grec et letton*

Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies : *Lettonie, 17 mai 2013*

[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

AGREEMENT

between

the government of the Republic of Latvia

and

the government of the Hellenic Republic

on maritime transport

The Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Hellenic Republic hereinafter referred to as the two Contracting Parties,

Desirous of strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries, by developing their cooperation in the field of merchant shipping and with a view to contributing to the development of international shipping on the basis of the principles of the freedom of merchant navigation,

Bearing in mind the principles laid down in international law and particularly in International Shipping Conventions to which both Contracting Parties are members,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1 Definitions

For the purpose of this Agreement:

1. The term "vessel of the Contracting Party" means any vessel registered in the Ship Register of this Contracting Party and flying its flag. This term shall not, however, include:
 - a) warships and auxiliary ships of the Navy;
 - b) vessels, which are performing exclusively administrative or state functions;
 - c) scientific research vessels;
 - d) fishing vessels.
2. The term "crew member" means the master and any person actually employed on board a vessel on duties and services connected with the running of the vessel and included in the crew list.
3. The term "competent authorities" means as regards the Republic of Latvia the Ministry of Transport or the person or institution authorised by it, as regards the Hellenic Republic - the Ministry of Merchant Marine. In case of any changes concerning the names or functions of the competent authorities, the Contracting Parties shall make the necessary notifications through diplomatic channels.

4. The term "cabotage" means transport of goods and passengers between the ports of one of the Contracting Parties. The term "cabotage" includes any transport of goods which although accompanied by a through bill of lading and no matter what their origin or destination is, are transhipped directly or indirectly at the ports of either of the Contracting Parties in order to be carried to another port of the same Contracting Party. The same provisions apply in the case of the passengers even if they carry through tickets.
5. The term "international maritime transport" means any transport by a vessel, except when the vessel is operated solely between places situated in the territory of a Contracting Party.

Article 2

Scope of the Agreement

1. The present Agreement shall apply on the territory of each of the Contracting Parties including their territorial waters.
2. The provisions of the present Agreement apply to the international maritime transport between the Contracting Parties.
3. However, the provisions of the present Agreement shall not apply:
 - a) to ports not open for foreign vessels;
 - b) to activities reserved by the national legislation of each of the Contracting Parties for their own national flag vessels or enterprises and organisations, including in particular cabotage, sea fishing, pilotage, towage, salvage and maritime assistance;
 - c) to entry and stay of foreigners;
 - d) to immigration and the transportation of immigrants.

Article 3

Objective

The Contracting Parties shall develop their cooperation in the field of merchant shipping and promote participation of their vessels in sea trade between their ports on the basis of equal rights, mutual benefit and the principles of the freedom of the merchant navigation, and shall refrain from any action that could affect the development of international shipping based on the above mentioned principles. The principle of non discrimination will apply to the commercial activities of nationals or legal entities operating ships under the flag of one Contracting Party in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

Article 4 Cooperation

1. The Contracting Parties, within the limits of the respective national legislation, shall continue their efforts to maintain and develop an effective relationship between the competent authorities in their countries.
2. The Contracting Parties agree to provide one another, within the limits of their ability, with technical assistance for the development of maritime transport. For this purpose the Contracting Parties will promote and encourage development of contacts and cooperation between their shipping and related enterprises and organisations.

Article 5 Principles of shipping

1. The Contracting Parties agree to follow in international maritime transport the principles of free and fair competition and in particular:
 - a) to cooperate in the elimination of obstacles which might hamper the development of sea trade between the ports of their countries;
 - b) to support measures which would ensure the participation of their vessels in the sea trade between the ports of the Contracting Parties and the ports of third countries on a free and commercially competitive basis and to abstain from measures and practices preventing such participation;
 - c) to ensure that their vessels shall be free to provide international sea services in accordance with the national legislation of the Contracting Parties;
 - d) to abolish any unilateral restrictions in respect of the international maritime transport of goods and passengers which are reserved in whole or in part for the vessels of the Contracting Parties;
 - e) to abolish any cargo sharing arrangements, in case that such arrangements are included in the existing bilateral arrangements of the Contracting Parties.
2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not affect the right of vessels of third countries to participate in the sea trade between the ports of the Contracting Parties.
3. The provisions of this Article shall not prevent the Contracting Parties to take the appropriate steps for ensuring the free participation of their merchant fleets in international trades on a commercially competitive basis in accordance with international law.