



Letter to Financial Times

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Letter to Financial Times from Mr. Ivan Sørensen, Mr. Gunnar J. Heinonen, Mr. Alfons Guinier, Ms. Nicolette van der Jagt and Mr. Philippe de Buck.

Sir,

The industry alliance of the European Organisation for Forwarding and Logistics (CLECAT), the European Ship Brokers' and Agents' Association (ECASBA), the European Community Shipowners Association (ECSA), the European Shippers' Council (ESC) and the Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe (UNICE) fully support the European Commission's proposal on Market Access to Port Services. European industries strongly feel that liberalisation of the port sector will lead to more efficiency and is essential to giving maritime transport services an attractive place in the overall supply chain.

The five associations, representing manufacturers, transport and logistics industries in Europe, welcome the Common Position of the Council on 5 November 2002. Though the original proposal has been weakened, industry feels that it is a step in the right direction.

Therefore, industry strongly advocates that the Common Position on the Directive is accepted by the European Parliament without further weakening. As industry expressed previously all services should fully be part of the Directive. This obviously includes Pilotage and self-handling particularly since safety safeguards and social elements have been adequately covered in the Common Position. Industry also agrees that proper qualifications for persons involved in port services are a must.

European industries strongly call on the European Parliament to agree with the Council and the Commission to fully maintain the scope of the directive in Second Reading.

CLECAT	ECASBA	ECSA	ESC	UNICE
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