



Brussels, 25. 09. 2017
Ares(2017)AT

VIOLETA BULC

Member of the European Commission

Mr Christiaan VAN LANCKER
President
European Skippers' Organisation
Avenue des Arts 56
1000 BRUSSELS

E-mail: secretariat@eso-ueb.org

Dear Mr Van Lancker,

Thank you for your letter received on 28 July 2017 in which you express your support to the statement from CNBA (Chambre nationale de la batellerie artisanale) regarding the lack of transparency in the inland waterway transport market. You refer in particular to a French law which would not allow transport operators to provide services under the breakeven point. However, following the information you have provided, this legislation would not yet be implemented.

The Commission follows with great attention the evolution of the market conditions in the inland navigation sector. Inland navigation transport within Member States is liberalised since long ago and contracts both in international and in national transport shall be freely concluded between the parties concerned and prices freely negotiated.

Therefore, a national law that would establish obligatory minimum prices for the operators would have to be checked for its compatibility with EU law.

I suggest you to contact my services directly to provide more information which would then allow for a more in-depth analysis.

Yours sincerely,



Violeta BULC