



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 5 March 2010 (08.03)  
(OR. fr)**

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2008/0246 (COD)**

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**REVISED ADDENDUM TO "I/A" ITEM NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council

to: COREPER/COUNCIL

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Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws **(first reading) (LA + S)**

- Adoption
- (a) of the Council's position
- (b) of the Council's reasons
- Statement

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**STATEMENT BY GREECE**

The Hellenic Republic fully and unequivocally supports the aims of the proposal for a Regulation concerning the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterways, which has special importance for shipping countries, such as Greece, particularly insofar as it strengthens and makes more effective the protection of the rights of the large numbers of passengers travelling each year.

However, the Hellenic Republic wishes to state that, in its opinion, the proposal for a Regulation should show greater balance between the fundamental rights of passengers, which it protects well, and the legitimate interests of sea carriers (especially small and medium-sized enterprises) which, in certain cases (force majeure, exceptional circumstances), incur excessive costs through no fault of their own.

In particular, the Hellenic Republic considers that the exemptions set out in Article 20a (13874/09), and especially in paragraph 3 thereof, should in addition include the obligation to provide accommodation (Article 18(2)) also in the event of exceptional circumstances such as search and rescue operations, transport of sick persons, incidents involving the safety of the ship and passengers and coverage of extraordinary transport needs, which are crucial for the effective functioning of the very extensive Greek coastal network.

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