

# Passenger ships: safety rules and standards

1996/0041(SEN) - 28/02/1996 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: To guarantee an equivalent and harmonized level of safety for passenger ships in international traffic from and to European Union ports. SUBSTANCE: The proposal for a Council directive provides for the application, with adaptations, of the provisions of the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention to passenger ships from the Member States. It set common safety standards for passenger ships making national voyages, whatever flag they are flying, divided up into classes according to the various sea areas in which they operate. These common safety standards relate essentially to construction (compartmentalization and stability, machinery and electrical appliances), fire protection and rescue equipment. The following sets of provisions as proposed: - a first set of provisions aimed at dividing passenger ships into classes according to the sea area in which they operate; - a second set of measures aimed at establishing the general safety conditions applicable to the various classes of passenger ship (detailed requirements), - a third set of measures concerning additional safety provisions, equivalences and exemptions; - a fourth set of provisions concerning surveys and the issuing of certificates allowing the authorized bodies to carry out surveys and certify that a ship is seaworthy. A declaration of compliance will be issued to ships which comply with the directive. Finally, the directive sets out the negotiating procedures, in the context of the IMO, for the harmonization of international safety standards applicable to passenger ships operating in international traffic, and the granting of exemptions to ships carrying out short international crossings or voyages in sheltered areas.