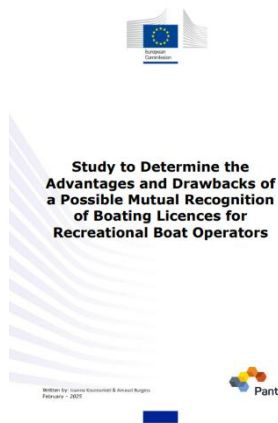


EBI welcomes new EU study calling for mutual recognition of boating licences for recreational boat operators



Brussels, 27 November 2025 – The EU Commission has published its Study on the Mutual Recognition of Boating Licences, advancing the long-standing concerns raised by European Boating Industry (EBI) about the fragmented and inconsistent framework governing recreational boating licences across the EU. EBI strongly supported the development of the study by mobilising its network, contributing industry expertise, and facilitating stakeholder participation throughout the process.

The findings point out that the lack of recognition creates unnecessary challenges for boaters, charter operators, marinas, and training organizations, ultimately hindering mobility and slowing the growth of nautical tourism. Growing nautical tourism in Europe is also an asset to the wider boating industry, supporting companies and jobs across the sector. The study recommends establishing mandatory mutual recognition of the International Certificate of Competence (ICC) to streamline cross-border boating, ensure safety, and reduce administrative complexity.

EBI welcomes the recommendations and urges policymakers to act swiftly. EBI calls on the EU Commission to make this matter a priority and implement EU-wide measures for mutual license recognition. Advancing these changes is seen as vital to enhancing the experience for Europe's roughly 48 million recreational boaters and boosting the sector's competitiveness.

Marina Palumbo Cardella, Project & Policy Officer at EBI, said: *"This study confirms what our sector has experienced for many years. The lack of mutual recognition of boating licences creates barriers for users and industry alike. Adopting mutual recognition of the ICC is the most practical and achievable way forward. We now look to the EU institutions to champion this initiative and help deliver a modern, user-friendly system for Europe's boaters."*

EBI will continue engaging to further advance this initiative, improve clarity for users, and ensure a harmonised approach that supports safe and enjoyable boating across Europe.

The full study is available [here](#).

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About European Boating Industry (EBI)

EBI represents the recreational boating industry in Europe. It encompasses all related sectors, such as boatbuilding, equipment manufacturing, marinas and service providers. The industry is a significant contributor to the European economy, representing 32,000 companies, predominantly SMEs that employ over 280,000 people directly. The mission of EBI is to advance and represent a sustainable boating and nautical tourism industry #MadeInEurope. More information on EBI's website: www.europeanboatingindustry.eu

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