



**The European Association  
for Traditional Ships  
in Operation**

Avec le patronage de l'agence  
européenne pour la culture  
(UNESCO)

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Göteborg, September 16, 2009

To whom it may concern

**Black Flag**

EMH stands fully behind the Black Flag spontaneous initiative taken this week. A number of Dutch, German and Danish ships is sailing to the maritime heritage port of Marstrøl in Denmark. Tomorrow a petition will be handed to the mayor of Marstrøl concerning the severe limitation that EU countries are causing the traditional fleet.

The black flag initiative was born this summer by frustrated shipowners that their possibility to sail within the EU is hampered by maritime administrations in many EU countries. Read more about this on our web site [www.e-m-h.eu](http://www.e-m-h.eu) or on [www.blackflag.eu](http://www.blackflag.eu)

I signed a declaration expressing our concern together with the mayor of Rostock and the secretary general of Hanse Sail in 2008.

EMH have written to DG TREN about this and in the reply we read in Commissioner Antonio Tajani's reply on October 1, 2008:

[undue advantage to nationals](#) must be deemed to constitute a restriction on the freedom to provide maritime transport services

EMH has since requested a meeting with European Maritime Safety Agency to discuss and offer any assistance to EMSA and EU in order to resolve the very tense situation in many EU countries. Hopefully we will meet shortly.

EMH also participated in the Maritime Day in Rome this May and I and several speakers expressed our concern with the ongoing legislation.

DG MARE is also developing a Maritime Atlas in order to give an overview of maritime Europe to its citizen. Hopefully we will be able to show to the benefit of all an EU fleet of traditional ships in many years to come

EMH kindly request to all who it may concern to take into account the ongoing discussion, to refrain from repressive actions and to accept the status quo till an European solution is found.

**European Maritime Heritage**

Per Jessing  
President

