

4. "Vessels" mean the merchant ships which are engaged in international maritime transport and registered in the territory of either Contracting Party or operated by companies of either Contracting Party. This term excludes warships, fishing vessels and other vessels engaged in non-commercial shipping.

ARTICLE 2

Scope of Application

1. The provisions of this Agreement shall apply only to international maritime transport serving either Contracting Party. When vessels of one Contracting Party sail between the ports of the other Contracting Party open for foreign vessels and serving international trade to unload cargo from foreign countries or load cargo for abroad, it shall also be within the scope of this Agreement. The same applies to passenger transport.
2. The vessels of each Contracting Party are entitled to sail between those harbours and ports of both Contracting Parties which serve international trade and are open for foreign vessels, and to transport passengers and cargo either between both Contracting Parties or between either Contracting Party and any Non-Contracting Party. Any further ports which become open for foreign vessels shall be automatically open to the vessels of the Contracting Parties engaged in the international maritime trade.
3. The provisions in this Article do not affect the right of vessels of any Non-Contracting Party to transport passengers and cargo between the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE 3

Standards of Treatment

1. Each Contracting Party shall accord to vessels of the other Contracting party treatment no less favourable than that it accords to vessels of any other country in respect of:
 - (a) access to ports;
 - (b) use of berths, port facilities and services;
 - (c) loading/unloading cargoes and completing necessary port formalities;
 - (d) embarking/disembarking passengers;
 - (e) transshipment;
 - (f) payment of port dues and charges;
 - (g) use of navigation facilities and services.
2. The provisions of this Article do not apply to:
 - (a) treatment granted by either Contracting Party to any other country resulting from the membership of either country in a customs union or free trade area;