



الأكاديمية العربية للعلوم والتكنولوجيا والنقل البحري  
Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport

**PRESS RELEASE**

**ALEXANDRIA DECLARATION 2010**

RELEASED

ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO ARAB LEAGUE COUNTRIES TO JOINTLY SIGN  
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON CONTRACTS FOR THE  
INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF GOODS WHOLLY OR PARTLY BY SEA  
("THE ROTTERDAM RULES 2008")

On 3rd February 2010, a two days workshop hosted by the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport in Alexandria/Egypt for more than two hundred government and industry delegates and experts from 15 Arab League countries (Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen) ended with a joint declaration – the ALEXANDRIA DECLARATION 2010 – recommending to the Arab League transport and trade ministers to jointly sign the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea – the Rotterdam Rules 2008. The workshop was supported by an expert team sent by UNCITRAL and led by DLA Piper partner Mr. Carsten Grau (Hamburg).

The organizations (NGOs) participating in the workshop included: Arab Federation for Sea Carriers, Arab Federation for Freight Forwarding and Logistics, Arab Federation for Sea Ports, Arab Federation of Chambers of Shipping, Arab Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Arab Society for Commercial and Maritime Law.

Until now, the Rotterdam Rules have been signed by 21 countries: Armenia, Cameroon, Congo, Denmark, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Togo and United States.

A joint signing of the 21 Arab League countries would be a clear signal that the Arab region is dedicated to the developments of globalization and modernization in international maritime transport which comprise the future necessity of electronic transport documents, multimodalism, clarification of roles, responsibilities, duties and rights of all parties involved in international transport of goods, provisions to prevent fraudulent use of bills of lading, revision of liability regime and limitations.

Within the workshop, only one representative from Sudan and the Arab Federation for Freight Forwarding and Logistics expressed reservations against signing the Rotterdam Rules.

In order to become binding international law, the Rotterdam Rules need to be signed and ratified by at least 20 UN member states.

Alexandria, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010

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