

Law on the Approval of the Ratification of the 2002 Athens Convention Has Been Published

In the Official Gazette dated 3/4/2017, Law No. 6990 on the Approval of the Ratification of the 2002 Protocol to the Athens Convention on the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea, 1974 has been published.¹

The Protocol dated 1/11/2002 of the Convention adopted in Athens on 13/12/1974 entered into force on 23/4/2014. Art. 15 of the Protocol states that the consolidated version of the Convention with this Protocol shall be referred to as the “2002 Athens Convention on the Carriage of Passengers and Luggage by Sea”. In addition to that, in order to become a State Party to the Protocol, it is necessary to denounce the Convention dated 1974 along with the Protocols dated respectively 1976 and 1990 (Protocol Art. 17).

As of today, 27 States have become State Parties² to the 2002 Convention corresponding to the approximately 44.27% of the world maritime trade fleet.

In accordance with Art. 20 para. 2 of the 2002 Protocol; the Convention shall enter into force for Turkey three months after the date of deposit of the appropriate instrument. This process will start for Turkey after the Decision of Council of Ministers, which is authorized to conduct Law No. 6990. The Turkish translation of the Convention will be published in the annex to the Decision of the Council of Ministers. The translation of the 2002 Protocol is annexed to the draft of Law No. 6990, see for translation:

<https://www.tbmm.gov.tr/sirasayi/donem26/yil01/ss152.pdf>

¹ For the legislative intent of the Law, see 1974, *Yolcuların ve Bagajlarının Deniz Yolu ile Taşınmasına İlişkin Atina Sözleşmesine Ait 2002 Protokolünün Onaylanmasının Uygun Bulduğuna Dair Kanun Tasarısı (1/470) ve Dışişleri Komisyonu Raporu, TBMM, Yasama Dönemi: 26, Yasama Yılı: 1, Sıra Sayısı: 152.*

² This information is taken from the IMO document which is updated regularly. For the document see IMO, Status of multilateral Conventions and instruments in respect of which the International Maritime Organization or its Secretary-General performs depositary or other functions, <http://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/StatusOfConventions/Documents/Status%20-%202017.pdf>, p. 313