



The Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP  
Secretary of State  
Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport  
100 Parliament Street  
London  
SW1A 2BQ

CA House  
1 Northey Street  
Limehouse Basin  
London E14 8BT

Tel: +44 (0)20 7537 2828  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7537 2266  
Email: [office@theca.org.uk](mailto:office@theca.org.uk)  
[www.theca.org.uk](http://www.theca.org.uk)

24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

The future of Britain's cruising sailors is threatened by the Schengen 90 day limit.

Britain has a proud maritime heritage which is evidenced around the world by the many thousands of active cruising yachtsmen and women.

I write as the Patron of the Cruising Association, the UK's largest sailing organisation dedicated solely to supporting cruising yachtsmen and women. We represent the needs and aspirations of tens of thousands of British sailors, motorboaters and their crews.

During our membership of the EU Britain's small boat owners and their crews were able to sail freely around European coasts and along its inland waterways, creating a national pool of experienced sailors. The impact of this freedom can be seen in the huge increase in both sailing and powerboating around our own coast.

However, the Schengen 90 days in 180 limit that now applies to UK citizens visiting the EU countries will cause severe difficulties. This restriction is difficult to comprehend because the arrangements for EU sailors visiting the UK are far more lenient, up to 6 months uninterrupted per visit. We are delighted to welcome visiting EU yachtsmen, but we want equality. This is not what we expected from Brexit. It is unfair and resented, and it particularly affects the 30,000 British sailors who currently keep their boats within EU waters.

Could I ask on behalf of all British sailors that whilst seeking to resolve the difficulties now facing touring musicians, your working group also recognises the needs of amateur sportsmen and specifically our small boat sailors voyaging on Schengen's waters, for whom the 90-day limitation is an existential threat to our maritime culture.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Knox-Johnston'.

Sir Robin Knox-Johnston CBE, RD\*  
Patron. The Cruising Association



*Founded 1908* Patron: Sir Robin Knox-Johnston C.B.E.

Registered in England Company Registration No: 5838052 VAT Registration No: 233 2933 78