

Glossary:Short sea shipping (SSS)

Statistics Explained

Short sea shipping , abbreviated as **SSS** , is the maritime transport of goods over relatively short distances, as opposed to the intercontinental cross-ocean [deep sea shipping](#) . In the context of [European Union \(EU\)](#) transport statistics it is defined as maritime transport of goods between [ports](#) in the EU (sometimes also including [candidate countries](#) and [EFTA](#) countries) on one hand, and ports situated in geographical Europe, on the Mediterranean and Black Seas on the other hand, i.e. ports in

- EU maritime countries;
- [EEA](#) maritime countries (Iceland and Norway);
- candidate countries;
- the Baltic Sea area (Russia);
- the Mediterranean Sea area (Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine*, Syria, and Tunisia);
- the Black Sea area (Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine).

*This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

This definition is derived from Commission Communication [COM \(1999\) 317 final](#) of June 1999 on the development of SSS in Europe (page 2). As a result, short sea shipping also includes **feeder services** : a short-sea network between ports with the objective of consolidating or redistributing freight to or from a [deep sea service](#) in one of these ports, the so-called [hub port](#) .

Related concepts

- [Deep sea shipping](#)
- [Port](#)
- [Waterway of maritime character](#)

Statistical data

- [Maritime transport statistics - short sea shipping of goods](#)