

**Question for written answer E-003714/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D), Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto (S&D) and Clara Eugenia Aguilera García (S&D)

Subject: Recognising the pension rights of Galician seafarers who worked on Norwegian vessels before 1994

Norway has just rejected, on grounds of a 'procedural error', a class action brought by Long Hope, an association of some 10 000 Galician seafarers who worked on Norwegian vessels before 1994 and whose pension rights the Norwegian Government does not recognise, despite their having paid tax in Norway.

The issue has been brought before Parliament several times in recent years, in the form of written questions (E-1587/2008, E-1588/2008 and E-009577/2011) and petitions (475/2010 and 1326/2010). What is more, we ourselves sent a letter to Commissioner Thyssen on 22 January 2016 (with no response, as yet) and, in April 2016, those affected by the issue protested outside the Norwegian Embassies in Madrid and Lisbon.

We believe that this situation constitutes a flagrant breach of the ILO Conventions and the European Convention on Human Rights, because those affected are being discriminated against on the basis of their nationality and place of residence.

Following Parliament's request for the Commission to mediate, has there been any progress on promoting a bilateral agreement between Norway and Spain?