

Question for written answer E-008955/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Overturning the provisions prohibiting the construction of merchant vessels by Hellenic Shipyards S.A. and measures to restructure of Greek shipping sector

The shipbuilding industry in Europe as a whole and Greece in particular has been hit by a sharp recession and its share of the global market is shrinking. The Commission decision to prohibit the building of merchant vessels in many Member State shipyards, prompted by the infringement of the rules governing state aid, is effectively exacerbating the crisis, eroding the competitiveness of European companies and benefiting third countries in the process. A case in point is a decision restricting the activities of Hellenic Shipyards S.A. (HSY) for 15 years from 2010 at a time when the Greek economy is reeling under the harsh impact of memorandum austerity measures.

The objectives for the shipbuilding sector laid down in the LeaderSHIP 2020 strategy include:

- measures to reduce the environmental impact of maritime activities and boost their energy efficiency and
- measures to stimulate the economy through restructuring of the shipbuilding industry in Greece.

In view of this:

1. What action can the Commission take to overturn the provisions prohibiting the construction of merchant vessels by the HSY, despite the fact that recovery of state aid from the company is still pending?
2. What measures will it take to promote the restructuring of the Greek shipbuilding industry?