

**Question for written answer E-000135/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Jordi Solé (Verts/ALE) and Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Marine pollution in the North Sea

According to the organisation Municipalities for Sustainable Seas (KIMO<sup>1</sup>), each year 10 000 boxes are lost at sea, while the World Shipping Council<sup>2</sup> gives an annual figure of 1 582 containers (catastrophic events included). The most recent incident occurred in the night of 2 to 3 January 2019, when 288 containers were lost overboard of the vessel *MSC Zoe* above the Wadden Islands in the North Sea, including three carrying toxic cargoes, with major consequences for the environment in vulnerable areas.

Does the Commission intend not only to require shipowners to insure themselves against the potential environmental and health consequences of the loss of containers, but also to arrange for full coverage of all clean-up costs for both the coast and the sea, as well as the costs related to the storage of the containers and the resulting pollution?

Does the Commission consider it to be the case that shipping companies are not complying with the international rules regarding the safety of containers, as has been affirmed in a programme<sup>3</sup> on Dutch television? If so, what action will the Commission take to improve the implementation of port inspections?

Can the Commission clarify whether it is willing to implement the measures put forward by KIMO in its resolution 1/08?<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.waddensea-forum.org/images/archive/studies/Shipping-KIMO-Resolution\\_Container.pdf](https://www.waddensea-forum.org/images/archive/studies/Shipping-KIMO-Resolution_Container.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.worldshipping.org/news/articles/2017/07/10/containers-lost-at-sea-2017-update>

<sup>3</sup> <https://nos.nl/nieuwsuur/artikel/2266193-gemiddeld-vallen-150-zeecontainers-per-jaar-in-de-waddenzee.html>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.waddensea-forum.org/images/archive/studies/Shipping-KIMO-Resolution\\_Container.pdf](https://www.waddensea-forum.org/images/archive/studies/Shipping-KIMO-Resolution_Container.pdf)