

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2072/03
by Brigitte Langenhagen (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Rules on ships' crews

National legislation in Denmark on the national fleet makes it impossible for a German master, for instance, to find employment on a Danish-flagged vessel. For mariners, this very much constrains the freedom of movement for workers which is enshrined in the European Treaties. Many European mariners, particularly those from countries with small fleets, have no alternative but to switch to vessels flying flags of convenience, with corresponding loss of prestige and poorer working conditions and pay.

1. Is the Commission aware of the precarious competitive situation with regard to European mariners?
2. What does the Commission intend to do to eliminate such distortions of competition in Europe?
3. Would the introduction of an EU flag and/or a European register be a suitable measure to improve matters in this connection? What are the pros and cons?