

**Question for written answer E-3723/2010
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Establishing a legal framework to protect the jobs of seamen working on EU vessels providing regular ferry services in European waters

With reference to the significant problem caused by the lack of Community rules on the manning of vessels providing regular passenger and ferry services between EU Member States, there are concerns that this situation could result in EU seamen being discriminated against in favour of cheaper crews from outside the Community.

To date, work on establishing a legal framework to protect the jobs of seamen working on EU vessels providing regular ferry services in European waters has not produced any results. In light of the above, what action will the Commission take to prevent unfair competition and to ensure that vessels registered in EU Member States can compete with all forms of substandard shipping while complying with EU standards and retaining crews made up of seamen from Member States?