

**Question for written answer E-000706/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Liam Aylward (ALDE), Brian Crowley (ALDE) and Pat the Cope Gallagher (ALDE)

Subject: The Directive on Marine Sulphur

The sulphur content of liquid fuels basically decides the level of SO₂ emission associated with the burning of fuel, as well as the creation of secondary particulate matter (PM). Directive 1999/32/EC, as amended, regulates the sulphur content of fuels used by the marine transport sector, and transposes certain rules into European law that were decided under the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). Under the Directive, there are stricter rules in relation to the sulphur content of marine fuels used in areas that are under environmental conservation, that is to say, Sulphur Emission Control Areas (SECAs).

1. Does the Commission know that the sulphur content of 0.1 % in effect for marine fuels is even stricter than the 0.5 % recommendation of the IMO?
2. Does the Commission have any plan to review the 0.1 % requirement for sulphur in marine fuels under Directive 1999/32/EC?
3. What measures are in place to ensure that the Directive's measures do not adversely affect the functioning of marine organisations and marine businesses of that kind?
4. Does the Commission intend to expand the Sulphur Emission Control Areas (SECAs) in order for other marine areas to be covered by them?