

**Question for written answer E-008846/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Struan Stevenson (ECR)**

Subject: European radio navigation plan

Is the Commission aware that the present space in the North Sea shipping area which is navigable for maritime vessels is scheduled to be reduced by 32 914 km<sup>2</sup> by 2020, due to new constraints relating to wind farms and marine protected areas? Over 375 000 ships pass through the North Sea shipping area per annum, with one ship passing through the Dover Strait every four minutes, making this the busiest shipping lane in the world.

While satellite navigation, in particular the global positioning system (GPS), is most frequently used for navigation purposes by maritime industries, this system remains vulnerable to signal failure, signal jamming, and deliberate criminal or terrorist attack. With the reduced navigable space in the North Sea region, the risk of such a signal failure or attack would be exacerbated.

The latest draft of the European radio navigation plan, which was first proposed in 1994, sets out the need for a comprehensive back-up to radio satellite navigation for maritime vessels, but has still not been implemented. More recently, the Fisheries Committee agreed in its report on the common organisation of the market that an integrated system of e-logs and other market shipping systems should be devised.

In the spirit of this agreement, may I therefore ask the Commission what the current status of the European radio navigation plan is, along with the planned timescale for its adoption and implementation by Member States?