

**Question for written answer E-003380/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Philippe De Backer (ALDE)**

Subject: Difficulties in complying with Directive 2012/33/EU on the sulphur content of marine fuels

On 1 January 2015, Directive 2012/33/EU on the sulphur content of marine fuels came into force, laying down strict rules for sulphur emissions within SECAs.

A number of stakeholders have expressed concern at the difficulties they will encounter when the directive enters into force and at the major consequences it will have for European market operators.

Following question for written answer E-008623/2013 regarding the consequences of the entry into force of the new sulphur directive:

1. Is the Commission still convinced that the entry into force of the 0.1 % sulphur limit in 2015 will not result in a modal backshift? What developments does it anticipate in this connection?
2. Can it give an up-to-date outline of the various measures envisaged to assist stakeholders with the change to alternative fuels with lower sulphur emissions?
3. Does it intend to be flexible regarding temporary exemptions and possible transition arrangements, thereby making it easier for ship owners to comply with the strict sulphur limits?