

**Question for written answer E-002944/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (PPE)**

Subject: Impact on tourism of the collapse of Thomas Cook

The bankruptcy of Thomas Cook, the international tour operator, has caused massive disruption to the European tourist market. Specifically, in Greece, where the company had a significant market share, this development is a blow to tourism and the economy: entrepreneurs, hoteliers and industry players are undertaking an initial impact assessment of the adverse consequences and immediate cost of the losses they have incurred.

Regarding the issue of compensation to be paid by Thomas Cook to the hotels concerned and its employees in Greece, the UK authorities have given assurances that efforts will be made to provide immediate compensation. However, this process is extremely time-consuming and costly, and in many cases there is no expectation that the compensation due will actually be paid.

Thomas Cook had many partner hotels, and the areas of Greece most affected by the company's insolvency are the islands of Zakynthos, Corfu, Skiathos, Crete and Kos, where many holidaymakers are stranded, waiting to be repatriated. In the light of the above, will the Commission say:

Does it intend to carry out an immediate impact assessment in order to limit the negative fallout for Europe's tourist sector from this unfortunate development?

How does it intend to help minimise the losses in Member States from the collapse of Thomas Cook and enable the European tourism industry to maintain its high level of competitiveness?