

**Question for written answer E-003031/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew)

Subject: Aid for outermost and island regions affected by the bankruptcy of Thomas Cook

The bankruptcy of Thomas Cook has hit two Spanish regions, the Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands, very hard, the first because it is an island region and the second because it is both an island and an outermost region. The tourist sector accounts for 45% and 34.3% respectively of the regions' GDP. Accordingly, the collapse of a tour operator heavily involved in both regions, a state of affairs which in the financial sector gave rise to the concept of systemic risk, makes measures to ease the impact essential. Those measures should go beyond the aid which can be provided under the Globalisation Adjustment Fund and the support for industry available under the COSME programme.

1. Are there plans to take specific measures to protect sectors of the economy that are particularly vulnerable to bankruptcies of this kind, such as the tourist industry in the two island regions referred to above?
2. Given the measures taken in the financial sector, could emergency aid be provided directly in order to help the regions cope with the immediate impact of the bankruptcy, which poses a systemic risk to their tourist industries?