

**Question for written answer E-003032/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Izaskun Bilbao Barandica** (Renew)

Subject: Bankruptcy of Thomas Cook and EU policy on support for the tourism industry

At its meeting of 27 May 2019, the Council approved a document setting out conclusions on the potential of the tourism sector to generate integrated and sustainable growth over the next decade. It emphasised that small and medium-sized enterprises in the sector need support to improve the quality of the services they offer and their employees' skills and enhance their online presence and digital services. At present, only the COSME programme offers dedicated funding to help firms achieve these objectives, through initiatives such as the eco-label and applications to improve synergies with the creative and cultural sector and high-quality gastronomy. The bankruptcy of Thomas Cook may offer many of these firms an opportunity to recruit highly trained workers and win customers who have lost reservations.

1. Does the Commission plan to speed up the in-depth assessment of the tourism sector promised in the recommendations referred to above?
2. Does it intend to take immediate steps to clarify, improve and concentrate the programmes which currently offer only piecemeal support for the tourism industry and make it easier for SMEs to secure funding under those programmes?