

**Question for written answer E-003991/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: IMO 2020 – Effects on island regions

IMO 2020 is an International Maritime Organisation regulation requiring ships to use fuel which contains a maximum of 0.5% sulphur by weight. The aim is to slash sulphur oxide emissions, which pollute the environment and destroy the ozone layer.

The regulation, which enters into force on 1 January 2020, could however have the unintended consequence of pushing up the costs of freight. An association of freight companies based in the Balearic Islands estimates that the operating costs per vessel and route between the Iberian Peninsula and the Balearic Islands will increase by between 12 and 14%. This will cause specific problems for islands like the Balearics, which are extremely dependent on shipping.

In the light of the foregoing:

Is the Commission intending to take any economic action to offset the potential increase in the cost of freight for island regions as a result of the entry into force of IMO 2020?