

**Question for written answer E-000391/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Concentration in the maritime transport sector

In its latest report ¹ on the impact of alliances in container shipping, the OECD International Transport Forum has noted that over the past ten years there has been a process of concentration of large shipping companies. This trend has gradually created a major contractual imbalance to the benefit of shipping companies and to the detriment of ports, terminal operators and logistics in general.

In the light of the changed market conditions, the current exemption regulation for consortia (Regulation (EC) No 906/2009, known as the 'Consortia Block Exemption Regulation') appears to have become obsolete and has helped to exacerbate the inequality in the sector.

In the face of these growing imbalances, shipping companies continue to benefit from a derogation regime.

1. In this regard, does the Commission intend to prolong these exemptions from antitrust rules for consortia?
2. Will the Commission provide a set of clear and transparent guidelines, as well as effective monitoring and control systems for the sector, in order to prevent and discourage potentially distorting and oligopolistic behaviour that can undermine the efficiency of the sector?
3. How does it intend to update the regulatory framework to safeguard pluralism and competition in the maritime transport market?

¹ <https://www.itf-oecd.org/impact-alliances-container-shipping>