

**Question for written answer E-001894/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Measures to support the cruise industry in light of the COVID-19 crisis

The cruise industry earns EUR 48 billion per year for the EU economy and guarantees 435 000 jobs. It plays, without a shadow of a doubt, a highly important role in both the shipping and tourism industries, and in the imposing production supply chain of directly associated goods and services. Indeed, Europe's own position as a leading global tourist destination owes a great deal to the actions of the cruise industry. However, the industry is now suffering enormously from the negative economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, cruise ships are even struggling to find ports that will allow them to moor and disembark their passengers and crew.

The negative effects of the pandemic on the EU economy are unprecedented in the continent's history. The extraordinary measures being discussed to tackle this economic crisis focus mainly on those industrial and productive sectors most badly hit.

1. Will the Commission include the cruise industry and the business activities connected to it in its plans for financial support through extraordinary liquidity? How does it aim to support it so it may continue to be a driving force for the EU economy and European tourism?
2. Will the Commission create priority corridors to facilitate the disembarkation and repatriation of cruise ship passengers and crew?