

**Question for written answer E-002740/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Mathilde Androuët**

Subject: Scrap ships – creating an official register

Ships that have outlived their usefulness cause harm to the environment and are a danger to human health. Ship recycling is regulated by the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which prohibits in particular the export of hazardous waste to countries that are not members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. However, the Convention is often circumvented by the practice known as flagging-out. To combat this practice, the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships was adopted in May 2009 under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization. The system established in Europe is based on the Convention and aims to ensure that EU-flagged vessels are recycled only at facilities which are safe and environmentally sound. Yet the question remains of dismantling scrap ships moored in various foreign ports – particularly in Libya – and which are likely to be involved in trafficking migrants. They might earn four or five times more for their owners if they are used for illegal transport operations or trafficking instead of being dismantled.

Given this situation, will the Commission create an official register enabling the vessels in question to be effectively traced?