

**Question for written answer E-005484/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Rosanna Conte (ID)**

**Subject:** Increase in maritime shipping costs

A substantial rise in the cost of maritime freight is pushing shipment costs up, which is in turn affecting trade in goods and the final price of the goods being shipped.

Coupled with the increased costs that producers and consumers now pay every day for fuel, basic necessities and raw materials that are becoming more scarce by the day, this is a dangerous trend and one that will, without fail, cause inflation to shoot up again.

There are no signs of this trend being reversed any time soon, so this negative spiral is likely to weigh down on businesses and families alike for some considerable time yet. Furthermore, this poses a threat to Christmas celebrations, one of the most important times of the year for global trade.

This being so, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Does it intend to monitor the level of inflation and assess, together with the bodies concerned, initiatives aimed at averting a steep rise in the price of goods and services?
2. Does it think it should espouse a strategy that aims in the long term to ensure that raw material shortages, such as those currently being experienced, cannot continue indefinitely, thereby undermining recovery from the post-pandemic recession?
3. What instruments will it adopt to support the maritime transport sector, which has been so hard hit by the steep rise in freight costs?