

**Question for written answer E-000763/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Tom Berendsen (PPE), Annie Schreijer-Pierik (PPE)

Subject: Follow-up questions on extremely high container prices and impact on consumer prices

The recently published Eurostat figures¹ mask a record high 5.1% inflation in the Eurozone in January 2022. In the Netherlands, inflation has even climbed to 6.4% – the highest level in almost 40 years². Dutch³ and international⁴ newspapers are reporting sharply rising container prices, which are having a knock-on effect on consumer prices. All the while, the container ship industry raked in record profits of over EUR 150 billion in 2021⁵.

1. Can the Commission provide information and figures to illustrate the extent to which steeply rising container prices are being reflected in European consumer prices?
2. How does the Commission gain an insight into the agreements made by container shipping companies as a result of the exemptions from normal competition protection provided by the Consortia Block Exemption Regulation (CBER)?
3. Despite the Commission's previous response⁶ to written questions of 6 October 2021⁷ and 23 July 2021⁸, in the light of current inflation rates and the profit margins of these companies, what is the Commission's view of the exemptions from normal competition protection afforded to container shipping companies by the CBER?

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/14233881/2-02022022-AP-EN.pdf/ae797c3b-899c-8d61-afd6-a08eb5f086f6?t=1643735823063>

² <https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/nieuws/2022/06/inflatie-stijgt-naar-6-4-procent-in-januari>

³ <https://fd.nl/bedrijfsleven/1422162/mkb-ers-zitten-klem-nu-ze-hoge-inkoopprijzen-nauwelijks-kunnen-doorberekenen#:~:text=De%20recordinflatie%20begint%20behoorlijk%20te,ten%20koste%20van%20de%20winstgevendheid.>

⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/furniture-giant-ikea-raises-prices-supply-chain-woes-persist-2021-12-30/>

⁵ <https://www.logistiek.nl/supply-chain/nieuws/2021/10/150-miljard-dollar-voor-containerrederijen-101181121>

⁶ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-004569-ASW_EN.html

⁷ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-004569_EN.html

⁸ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2021-003732_EN.html