

**Question for written answer E-001515/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Izaskun Bilbao Barandica** (Renew)

Subject: Maritime transport and the impact of Regulation (EC) No 906/2009

In recent years, international maritime container transport has experienced a sustained increase in the cost of freight, as well as constant reorganisation of routes and/or cancellations of reservations made by clients. Regulation (EC) No 906/2009 (Consortia Block Exemption Regulation) allows operational arrangements between shipping companies in order to increase the productivity and quality of liner shipping transport services. Among other things, the Regulation aims to ensure that a fair share of the benefits generated by this increased efficiency is passed on to users, both in the quality and price of the service that they receive. Many stakeholders complain that the current application of this Regulation fails to do this and instead gives rise to an oligopoly in which the market leaders rule the roost. Frequent media reports on the state of affairs in the sector would appear to confirm this.

1. Are there reliable calculations of the impact this problem has on inflation?
2. The US authorities are already analysing the behaviour of shipping companies in relation to this issue. Does the Commission intend to conduct a similar analysis?
3. In light of the facts presented above, could the aforementioned Consortia Block Exemption Regulation be revised?