

**Question for written answer E-002343/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Refloating the SEA DIAMOND cruise ship

The residents of Santorini are understandably alarmed at the failure to refloat the wreck of the SEA DIAMOND cruise ship, which has remained submerged for 15 years, releasing pollutant substances into the marine environment and posing a threat to public health. Over 300 tonnes of oil are now leaking from the wreck, which is located in a NATURA 2000 area and is gradually eroding, releasing many more hazardous substances, such as heavy metals. The resulting pollution is having a very serious impact on the marine ecosystem and on the health of residents and is causing ecological damage.

The Coordinating Committee for the Recovery of SEA DIAMOND has highlighted the urgency of the problem, pointing to the latest methods and techniques available. However, successive governments have all failed to take any meaningful action to refloat the cruise ship and restore the marine environment. From this it is clear that the EU's vaunted 'green transition' is primarily concerned with big business and corporate green investment rather than the resolution of environmental issues.

In the light of this:

1. What view does the Commission take of calls by local residents for immediate action to refloat the wreck and remedy the damage caused?
2. What is its position regarding the increase in environmental crime and ongoing pollution by shipping companies?