

**Question for written answer E-002350/2022/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE)**

**Subject:** Enforcement in the UK of judgments handed down by EU and Member State courts

In its judgment of 20 June 2022 in Case C-700/20, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) held that arbitration proceedings initiated in the UK on the sinking of the oil tanker *Prestige* in 2002 cannot prevent the recognition of a Spanish judgment ordering the insurer to make good the damage caused by the oil spill. The London P&I Club would therefore be required to comply with the judgment of the Spanish Supreme Court and the enforcement order of the Provincial Court in A Coruña (Spain) requiring the insurer of the *Prestige* to pay EUR 855 million in compensation for the damage caused by the oil spill.

Some have warned<sup>1</sup>, however, that the London P&I Club may still be able to circumvent the CJEU ruling, taking advantage of the fact that, following the UK's withdrawal from the EU, part of the UK judiciary no longer feels bound by the decisions of EU courts.

Under the Withdrawal Agreement<sup>2</sup> and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement<sup>3</sup>, what instruments does the Commission have in place to ensure that judgments handed down by EU and Member State courts are enforced in the UK?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.lavozdegalicia.es/noticia/galicia/2022/06/22/aseguradora-prestige-puede-eludir-sentencia-tribunal-ue/0003\\_202206G22P7991.htm](https://www.lavozdegalicia.es/noticia/galicia/2022/06/22/aseguradora-prestige-puede-eludir-sentencia-tribunal-ue/0003_202206G22P7991.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (OJ C 384I , 12.11.2019, p. 1).

<sup>3</sup> Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part (OJ L 149, 30.4.2021, p. 10).