Question for written answer E-002610/2022 to the Commission
Rule 138
Maite Pagazaurtundúa (Renew), Adrián Vázquez Lázara (Renew)

Subject: Possible inaction by the Spanish Government following the sinking of the Villa de Pitanxo

On 15 February 2022, 450 kilometres off the coast of Newfoundland (Canada), the Villa de Pitanxo tragically sunk, leaving 21 dead.

Article 4 of Royal Decree 800/2011\(^1\) transposing Directive 2009/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council\(^2\) states that ‘the Permanent Commission for the Investigation of Maritime Accidents and Incidents [attached to the Ministry of Public Works] shall conduct a maritime safety investigation in the event of very serious maritime accidents [...] affecting ships flying the Spanish flag, irrespective of the location of the accident’. The Spanish Government has not launched an effective investigation of that kind and families feel that the authorities responsible are not doing enough, which may adversely affect their legitimate interests in ongoing court cases.

In the light of the above, what steps will the Commission take to ensure that Spain meets its obligations in good time?

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1. Royal Decree 800/2011 of 10 June 2007 regulating the investigation of maritime accidents and incidents and the Permanent Commission for the Investigation of Maritime Accidents and Incidents.