

**Question for written answer E-004113/2022**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Pierre Karleskind** (Renew)

Subject: Unfair competition in cross-Channel transport

Certain companies operating cross-Channel routes have opted to sail under a Cypriot flag, allowing them to dismiss several hundred British sailors in order to hire Colombian sailors and temporary crew under appalling working conditions and with pitiful salaries. Use of the Cypriot flag allows certain companies to improve their ability to compete by lowering workforce-related costs.

1. Is the Commission of the opinion that the Cypriot flag is compatible with a situation of free competition which is not skewed against other maritime companies operating cross-Channel lines whose ships fly the flags of other Member States?
2. Does the Commission intend to create a European Union maritime flag to prevent a situation in which the social standards of Member States are placed in competition with each other?
3. What steps does the Commission intend to take to ensure that the increase of short-distance maritime transport between Member States does not have an adverse impact on sailors' working conditions?

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