

**Question for written answer E-002271/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject:     Securing the future of the maritime industry

Around 90% of global trade takes place by sea. For Europe, whose geopolitical strength is based on international trade, the maritime economy is a key sector. However, European industries such as container and specialised vessel construction and port operations are currently under enormous pressure, as they risk being crowded out on account of dumping prices from Asia, in particular from China. In recent years, Germany – a country known for its exports and industry - has seen its share of the global shipping fleet and the number of transshipments in its ports nosedive, owing to a ramp-up in operations in locations outside of Europe. What we need now is an active location policy that promotes the maritime economy as well as industrial value creation across Europe.

1.   How is the Commission ensuring that Europe will remain a competitive location for the maritime economy in the future, and that there is a level playing field at international level?
2.   Is the Commission intending to launch, as a clear response to the distortions of competition from Asia, a programme enabling the European shipbuilding industry to renew its fleets?
3.   Is the Commission planning to appoint a maritime economy officer to coordinate the measures required to strengthen Europe's shipping industry?

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