

**Question for written answer E-003749/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Ioannis Lagos (NI)**

Subject: The dangers of transporting electric and hybrid vehicles by sea

International shipping is up in arms about the transportation of electric and hybrid vehicles by ship. Many shipping companies are refusing to transport electric vehicles following a spate of incidents where ships have caught fire or sunk while transporting such vehicles. Their refusal is also motivated by the fact that should a lithium battery in just one electric vehicle catch fire, between 20 and 30 firefighting vehicles/vessels may be needed to transport the quantity of water required to extinguish the fire, making it an almost impossible feat. The increasing use of electric vehicles and the risk of their batteries catching fire either when they overcharge or overheat or when there is a manufacturing defect, calls for a sustainable and realistic solution, which needs to be found as a matter of urgency. For its part, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) issued an unfortunate guideline which recommends identifying vehicles based on their fuel type by applying stickers on their windscreens for a faster visual identification of vehicles in the event of a fire. However, this measure does nothing to guarantee the safety of maritime transportation of electric and hybrid vehicles.

In view of this:

What realistic and effective measures will the Commission take in order to prevent the risks of transporting electric and hybrid vehicles by sea, bearing in mind the number of shipwrecks and fires witnessed aboard car-carrier ships?

Submitted: 21.12.2023