

**Question for written answer E-000405/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Shipping companies hit hard by additional cost of carbon quotas

The consequences of the Houthi attacks in the Red Sea are numerous, with the shipping industry being hit particularly hard. In addition to their rising fuel and insurance bills, companies are seeing an increase in the cost of carbon offsets as a result of the long detours they have to make. Since 1 January 2024, all commercial and passenger ships of more than 5 000 gross tonnes sailing to or from EU ports have been subject to the emissions trading system, meaning they have to offset 40 % of their CO₂ emissions.

This increase in costs, as well as being permanent, is compounded by the exceptional security situation. Companies are also being penalised for emitting more CO₂ because vessels are having to sail faster in an effort to make up for the longer journey times. The additional costs incurred as a result of these penalties are passed on to customers and ultimately to consumers. They are also causing congestion in major ports, in an already very tense economic environment.

As a result, what measures does the Commission intend to take to ease the pressure on the operators concerned and exempt them from the costs associated with carbon quotas?

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