Question for oral answer  O-000033/2019

to the Commission

Rule 136

José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Pablo Arias Echeverría, Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar, Markus Ferber, Dennis Radtke, Cindy Franssen, Krzysztof Hetman, Stelios Kypouropoulos, Pascal Arimont, Benoît Lutgen, Romana Tomc

on behalf of the PPE Group

Subject: Effects of the bankruptcy of the Thomas Cook Group

The bankruptcy of Thomas Cook left 600 000 people stranded at their holiday sites and has had multiple knock-on effects in several sectors such as tourism, air transport and road transport. Contingency plans were adopted by national and regional administrations to repatriate the passengers affected. Figures on the impact of bankruptcy are still uncertain, although probably considerable.

Given the big economic impact this bankruptcy will have on the tourism sector, which is of major importance for a lot of European economies (in terms of jobs, GDP, flight connectivity and consumer protection etc.), and on the image and reputation of Europe as the world’s number one tourist destination:

What is the Commission going to do to prevent major impacts on European economies (especially those closely linked to the tourism sector)?

What kind of aid to the sectors and companies affected by the bankruptcy of Thomas Cook (e.g. State aid, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF), the European Social Fund (ESF)) will the Commission put in place to alleviate the consequences that this bankruptcy will lead to in terms of employment, especially with regard to SMEs?

Will the European Union consider harmonisation measures to guarantee consumer rights in the event of company bankruptcy? Should passenger protection in the event of bankruptcy be included in Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 on air passenger rights?

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