

**Question for written answer P-000490/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Søren Bo Søndergaard (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Discrimination and social dumping on Danish vessels

Does the Commission agree that it is a breach of Article 45(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) that EU citizens who are employed as seafarers on vessels registered on the Danish International Ship Register (DIS) may not be covered by Danish rules on pay and working conditions?

It is clear from Section 10 of the DIS Act that seafarers who are not resident in Denmark cannot be covered by collective agreements concluded with Danish trade union organisations.

As a result, seafarers from other EU countries who do not have a residence in Denmark are discriminated against in practice and in most cases do not benefit from the pay and working conditions that apply to the employment of Danish seafarers.

According to the European Court of Justice, maritime transport is covered by the rules on non-discrimination, and residence is not an objective criterion for derogating from that right.

As at 29 November 2013, 1 217 EU/EEA citizens were employed on vessels registered on the DIS.

This practice has become of topical interest in connection with the disposal of chemical weapons from Syria, as the Danish state has undertaken to transport these weapons to their place of destruction on the vessel *Ark Futura*, which is registered on the DIS. Denmark has stipulated that the weapons will be transported on a Danish vessel with a Danish captain, but that officers and crew can be from EU/EEA or NATO countries.

It appears from a complaint to a Member of the Danish Parliament (Folketing) that the pay and working conditions of Polish seafarers on the *Ark Futura* are worse than those which apply to the employment of Danish crew.