

Question for written answer P-004926/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Lucy Anderson (S&D)

Subject: Seafarers

Only around 40 % of ratings positions in European fleets are held by EU nationals, and there is an urgent need to improve the quality of maritime jobs and training to attract and retain skilled seafarers as part of an ambitious growth strategy for the sector. Too frequently, seafarers of all nationalities are exploited at work, partly through the use of flags of convenience and the perpetuation of exclusions of seagoing workers from EU employment, equality and social protection laws.

In recent years, it has been a welcome development that Directive 2015/1794/EU has extended rights to seafarers in a number of respects, and recognised specifically that 'the existence of, and/or possibility of introducing, exclusions may prevent seafarers from fully enjoying their rights to fair and just working conditions'.

Given the above, would the Commission:

1. Act to help restrict the use of flags of convenience and to further a requirement for a genuine link between the real owners of ships and the flag they are flying?
2. Oppose the Council's June 2018 General Approach excluding seafarers and sea fisherman from the proposed Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions Directive (COM(2017)0797)?
3. Propose amending the Posting of Workers Directive (96/71/EC) to include workers on seagoing vessels?