

**Priority question for written answer P-001454/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Challenges facing the merchant shipping industry

The ocean-going container liner industry is in a very difficult situation, and there is a high risk of the logistics chain breaking down. The reliability of the provision of services by liner shipping companies is at its lowest since records began.

Prices are at historical highs, and the rise in prices has become structural. According to UNCTAD, around 1.5% of the current inflation rate is due to the impact of this rise in freight prices.

In the circumstances, the shipping industry is questioning the effectiveness of Commission Regulation (EC) No 906/2009 of 28 September 2009 (Consortium Block Exemption Regulation), which is supposed to benefit transport users but is not. Moreover, this situation is a threat to maintaining free competition on the market concerned.

1. Is the Commission considering taking steps to ensure the merchant shipping industry functions correctly?
2. What is the Commission's position on a prospective derogation from the Consortium Block Exemption Regulation?