

**Priority question for written answer P-003249/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Enforcement in the UK of judgments handed down by EU and Member State courts

In its judgment of 6 October 2023, the High Court of Justice (England and Wales) ruled against the Spanish Supreme Court's 2016 judgement ordering the London P&I Club – the insurance company of the oil tanker *Prestige* – to pay compensation. According to the media¹, the judgment of the British court stated that the existence of a prior arbitration award in the United Kingdom prevented the Spanish court ruling from being enforced, under the *res judicata* principle.

However, the judgment of the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) in Case C-700/20 of 20 June 2022 had held that the proceedings in the UK could not block the enforcement of the Spanish ruling.

According to the European Commission's answer² to my question of June 2022, the CJEU ruling 'has binding force in its entirety on and in the United Kingdom (...)'³.

The judgment of the High Court of England and Wales of 6 October 2023 is an indication that the UK may not comply with the CJEU judgment.

In view of this, what measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that it does comply?

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¹ <https://www.lavozdeg Galicia.es/noticia/galicia/2023/10/06/justicia-britanica-impide-espana-reclamar-855-millones-indemnizaciones-prestige/00031696611276831739484.htm>.

² European Commission answer to question E-002350/2022, 17 August 2022.

³ In accordance with Article 89(1) of the Withdrawal Agreement.