

**Question for written answer E-002577/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
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Subject: Europe's maritime tradition

Europe has a long maritime tradition. The number of European seamen, however, has been in steep decline for years, and the maritime sector is faced with a potential shortage of workers. The competitiveness of European seamen is also threatened by the low wages paid to workers from third countries.

What steps is the Commission taking in order to:

1. preserve Europe's maritime tradition;
2. protect the competitiveness of EU seamen vis-à-vis their much less well-paid competitors from third countries;
3. and encourage young people in the EU to take an interest in maritime careers?