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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.5.2026)

The Commission strongly condemns the disruptions brought to the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial transit for global trade, and calls for full respect of navigation rights and freedoms of merchant and commercial vessels in accordance with international law.

The disruptions highlight the vulnerability of the maritime sector to geopolitical situations in critical maritime chokepoints, and the ripple effect these have on commodity markets and global supply chains. The sector will see higher transport costs due to increases in freight rates for the shipping of fuels, prices of bunker fuels and insurance premiums¹.

Additional impact in the form of increased costs stemming from the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) linked to the re-routing of voyages is expected to be low considering notably the relatively limited reliance of the EU on energy imports transiting through the Strait of Hormuz. It should also be noted that when ships are involved in voyages between the EU and third countries, the ETS surrender obligation only applies to 50% of relevant emissions, thus limiting possible further increase in ETS costs. The Commission continues to monitor the implementation of the ETS for maritime transport, including with regards to transport costs. Past analysis has shown that the ETS has limited impact on total transport costs or commodity prices.

The Commission is working on a number of initiatives including a review of the ETS, to modernize the system in line with the 2040 emissions reduction target agreed by the co-legislators. The ETS is a key tool to achieve a higher degree of energy security and independence, which in time will ensure lower, more stable energy and carbon costs, including for the maritime sector.

¹ Strait of Hormuz Disruptions – Implications for Global Trade and Development; UNCTAD; 10/03/2026.