

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001839/26
to the Commission
Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (PPE)
(6 May 2026)**

Subject: Ship safety in the Strait of Hormuz

According to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Centre, at least two commercial ships, including a Greek vessel, came under fire on 22 April 2026 after coordinated attacks by Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps as they were coming through the Strait of Hormuz.

This incident raises serious concerns about the safety of shipping and the protection of seafarers amid broader geopolitical unrest, resulting in continued disruption to maritime trade flows and limiting freedom of navigation, in a region that plays a critical role in the global supply chain.

Given the crucial role shipping plays in ensuring the EU's energy security and economic resilience, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What steps does it intend to take, in coordination with the Member States, to ensure the safety of ships and the protection of crews at sea on trade routes?
2. How does it intend to ensure the freedom of European shipping and prevent further escalation on maritime routes of strategic importance, such as the Strait of Hormuz?
3. How does it intend to ensure that European shipping continues to be a pillar of EU energy security, especially in the context of rising geopolitical tensions?

Submitted: 6.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(14 August 2026)**

The Commission is deeply concerned by attacks on ships in the Strait of Hormuz and strongly condemns any action that puts seafarers at risk. The safety of crews at sea is the priority, and attacks on civilian vessels are unacceptable.

The EU works closely with Member States and partners to monitor threats in high-risk areas. The EU supports the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) framework, which sets clear rules on maritime safety and the protection of seafarers.

The IMO adopted resolutions calling for the implementation of an evacuation corridor. The Commission works closely with IMO to operationalise it as soon as the security situation allows.

The EU is committed to freedom of navigation under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which sets the framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.

The EU calls on all states to refrain from any action that interferes with freedom of navigation in straits used for international navigation in order to avoid escalation.

As regards the conditions for the reopening of traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, the Commission opposes any mechanism that would link a transit passage to the payment of a fee or charge, which would constitute a breach of international law and create a precedent hampering global freedom of navigation

The EU is conducting the EU Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) operation ASPIDES ⁽¹⁾ in the Red Sea and in the Gulf of Aden, where it provides support for merchant vessels.

The EU will contribute to international efforts in the Strait of Hormuz when the security situation allows, subject to a decision by the Member States. Any such contributions would support and complement the wider multinational effort.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eunavfor-aspiden_en?s=410381.