

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001316/26
to the Commission
Benoit Cassart (Renew)
(30 March 2026)**

Subject: EU MRV and ETS frameworks for offshore shipping — the need for regulatory adaptation

Offshore vessels are already encountering significant difficulties in complying with EU monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) obligations. With the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS 1) set to apply to offshore vessels above 5 000 gross tonnage (GT) from 1 January 2027, these structural incompatibilities will translate into legal uncertainty, disproportionate compliance burdens and a distortion of the level playing field to the disadvantage of EU offshore operators.

1. Does the Commission acknowledge that the current MRV Regulation and ETS Directive, as applied to offshore vessels, contain structural gaps that do not adequately reflect the operational realities of the offshore shipping sector?
2. If so, what specific measures is the Commission considering to address these gaps ahead of the 2027 entry into force of the requirements on offshore vessels under the ETS Regulation?

Submitted: 30.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(24 April 2026)**

The Commission sees the offshore shipping sector as being of strategic importance for Europe, especially in the areas of energy, telecommunications and digital connectivity.

Decarbonisation drives economic players, including the offshore maritime sector, to become independent of fossil fuels and thus strengthen competitiveness.

It is in everyone's interest to ensure legal certainty and a level playing field for the sector and a fair contribution towards EU climate goals.

The Commission recognises the heterogeneity and specific nature of offshore activities, when it comes to Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and Emissions Trading System (ETS) obligations.

To address the issues that have been raised by offshore operators, the Commission has included additional clarifications in the guidance document ⁽¹⁾ accompanying the MRV Regulation ⁽²⁾ and the EU ETS Directive ⁽³⁾.

Technical discussions on practical implementation matters pertaining to this sector with regards to MRV and ETS obligations continue to be held in the offshore workstream that meets under the auspices of the European Sustainable Shipping Forum (ESSF). This workstream brings together offshore shipping operators, Member States' authorities and the Commission.

In the context of the ongoing review of the ETS Directive, the Commission is also assessing what additional measures may be adopted to further facilitate compliance by offshore operators while ensuring a level playing field.

⁽¹⁾ Guidance Document 'The EU ETS and MRV Maritime — General guidance for shipping companies'; updated version, 18 November 2025.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2015/757/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02003L0087-20240301>.