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Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 7:49 PM
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Subject: Meeting with Royal Caribbean Cruises

The VP met with Royal Caribbean Cruises (RCC) this afternoon.

They wanted to discuss three issues:

1) The Green Deal

RCC expressed support for Europe's efforts to de-carbonize and offered to help, although they said progress needs to be made carefully, citing their experience in increasing their consumption of bio-fuels, which proved a mistake given the environmental burden it creates via agriculture. They are working with a manufacturer of fuel cells that claims in 2-3 years time such cells will be able to provide for 100% of cruise ships in port energy needs.

2) The revised Schengen Visa Code

The revised Schengen Visa Code comes into effect on 2nd February, and the biggest change will be the longer duration of visas for seafarers (to 9 months from 3 months). Seafarers are predominantly Asian nationals and Member States consular offices in Asia will need to be aware of this change. RCC's recent outreach to some EU Member States consular offices in Manila (FR, DE, EL, IT, ES) showed most offices had no knowledge of the proposed changes except the DE one which claimed it was not able to implement the new regime yet due to a conflict with national legislation.

3) DG COMP's Investigation into the proposed acquisition of the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard by Fincantieri.

RCC expressed strong opposition to the acquisition and have submitted a written position explaining their concerns as it raises costs and reduces innovation if it is approved. (For info, RCC purchases its new cruise ships solely from Chantiers and one other European shipyard and they made clear they consider Chantiers a more reliable supplier than Fincantieri.)

Overall, the VP informed us follow-up from us on the points discussed was NOT required at this stage.

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