

**Question for written answer E-000702/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Cabotage in the Gulf of Naples

The private maritime transport companies operating ferry services in the Gulf of Naples do so on the basis of concessions granted by the state, without having had to take part in an EU-wide procurement procedure (none have ever been conducted). This is a clear violation of Regulation (EEC) No 3577/92 on maritime transport within Member States.

Given that the islands in the Gulf of Naples do not come within the definition of 'small islands' (i.e. islands to and from which the annual number of passengers is around 300 000 or fewer), as annual passenger numbers stand at around 10 million, the derogation under which a call for expressions of interest may be issued without the need for a formal procurement procedure does not apply in this instance.

In an exchange of emails in 2009, the Commission was informed that concessions had been granted without the services being opened up to all EU operators. In a reply sent by email in 2011, DG Mobility and Transport stated that it had opened an inquiry into the failure to conduct EU-wide procurement procedures in the Gulf of Naples. Since then, the situation has not changed and it would appear that the Commission has yet to initiate infringement proceedings against Italy.

1. What are the reasons behind this delay?
2. How does the Commission intend to ensure that Regulation (EEC) No 3577/92 is complied with in the Gulf of Naples?