

**Question for written answer E-006546/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)

Subject: Sinking of the Russian fishing vessel Oleg Naydenov in waters off the Canary Islands

The Russian fishing vessel Oleg Naydenov, which sank on 14 April to the south of Gran Canaria, is still leaking fuel from the 1 400 tonnes that it was carrying. This situation poses a threat to the natural wealth of the waters around the Canary Islands, which have been declared a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area under the protection of the International Maritime Organization, and, specifically it is an area that has been declared a Site of Community Importance by the Ministry for the Environment. Added to this are the current difficult meteorological conditions, which are preventing the fuel from being recovered in the immediate future; therefore, we feel that it is necessary to maximise coordination and to utilise all possible resources to prevent the situation from worsening and to help in the clean-up operation.

In accordance with European legislation, in the event of environmental pollution, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) shall assist the Member State affected.

Will the European Commission encourage the EMSA to take steps to help the Spanish government to minimise the consequences of the spillage?

Furthermore, given that these are Community waters, is the European Commission planning to propose a package of economic measures to help the Spanish State with its clean-up operations?