

Question for written answer E-008743/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Aegean island of Agios Efstratios with no ferry for 35 days

According to Article 174 of the Treaty of Lisbon, the development and pursuit of EU cohesion policy also depends directly on the accessibility of island regions.

The problem of communication with and supplies of basic commodities to the Aegean islands was highlighted by recent events on the small outlying island of Agios Efstratios. The island has had no ferry for 35 days as unpaid seamen have refused to work.

Without a ferry, the island residents face a series of problems. Farmers cannot sell their produce, the fishermen have stopped fishing as they cannot despatch their catches and tourist reservations are being cancelled one after another.

Communication between the island and mainland Greece is difficult, problems are increasing due to the lack of basic commodities, such as food, bottled water and medication, and it is impossible for residents to access welfare and medical structures.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

What measures does it intend to take and to what timetable, in order to improve the cabotage link between this island and mainland Greece, so that the residents can enjoy equal access to basic commodities and health structures and participate in economic life?