

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

---

*Session document*

5.12.2007

B6-0503/2007

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Council and the Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Paolo Costa

on behalf of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

on the shipwrecks in the Kerch Strait in the Black Sea

**B6-0503/2007**

**European Parliament resolution on the shipwrecks in the Kerch Strait in the Black Sea  
Black Sea**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Articles 71, 80 and 251 of the EC Treaty,
  - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the Erika I, II and III packages,
  - having regard to its previous resolutions on maritime safety, in particular its resolution of 21 November 2002 on the Prestige oil tanker disaster and its resolution of 23 September 2003 on improving safety at sea in response to the Prestige accident,
  - having regard to the seven legislative proposals on maritime safety (third maritime package) submitted to Parliament by the Commission in November 2005,
  - having regard to its position adopted at first reading in April 2007 on the third maritime package,
  - having regard to the recent shipping disaster in the Kerch Strait in the Black Sea on 11 November 2007,
- A. whereas 10 vessels (tankers and cargo carriers) sank or ran aground in the strait and the northern Black Sea region during a severe storm, including the Volganef-139, which was not designed to withstand severe weather at sea,
- B. whereas, according to provisional information, six seafarers died and more than 2000 tonnes of fuel oil and sulphur were spilt into the sea, causing an environmental disaster and killing over 15 000 birds,
- C. whereas violent storms dispersed oil pollutants, affecting communities in the region as well as the environment, and the oil and sulphur pollution, in addition to causing human casualties, also directly affected fauna and flora, with possible long-term impacts on the ecological quality of the natural habitats affected,
- D. whereas the Black Sea is becoming one of the main routes for increasing oil exports in the region,
- E. whereas this human loss and ecological disaster in the Black Sea underlines the need to speed up deliberations in the Council on the remaining legislative acts in the third maritime package on maritime safety,

1. Expresses its solidarity and reiterates its support for the victims of this disaster;
2. Calls on the Council and the Commission to monitor closely the situation in the Black Sea and to take concrete action to help to reduce the ecological impact of the disaster;
3. Calls on the Member States to ensure the rigorous application of existing Community legislation, especially legislation on ship standards, for example on Port State Control;
4. Notes that several measures, such as a temporary ban on river-to-sea vessels from the high seas, have been taken by the Russian authorities as a result of the recent series of shipwrecks in the Kerch Strait and underlines the fact that these measures should only be lifted after in-depth investigations and a situation assessment have been completed;
5. Stresses that the strictest observation of maritime navigation rules is an essential feature of maritime safety and urges the Member States and the EU's neighbouring countries to ensure that vessel crews and maritime administrations under no circumstances ignore alerts or storm warnings;
6. Underlines the fact that the Black Sea disaster should draw the attention of the EU's neighbouring countries - principally Russia, which has announced plans for a several-fold increase in its oil transshipment and export capacities on the Black Sea coast - to the issues of modernising maritime fleets and banning the use of obsolete single-hull tankers;
7. Acknowledges the proactive role played by the Commission as long ago as November 2005, when it presented a set of seven legislative proposals (known as the third maritime package) to strengthen European maritime safety legislation, without waiting for another maritime accident, and to prevent further environmental disasters and marine pollution;
8. Points out that the European Parliament completed its first reading of the seven proposals in the third maritime package by April 2007 and considers that the seven legislative proposals are closely interrelated and therefore need to be adopted as a package;
9. Stresses that accidents such as occurred in the Black Sea region should speed up the Council's deliberations and calls on the Council to adopt common positions on all seven legislative proposals immediately;
10. Calls on the Council and the Commission to step up cooperation with non-EU riparian states on the implementation of measures to lessen the threat of environmental pollution from shipping accidents, including through action taken in the context of the International Maritime Organisation and the Paris Memorandum of Understanding;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.