

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Riccardo Ventre

on the repercussions of ship pollution on coastal tourist regions

Lapse date: 7.5.2009

Written declaration on the repercussions of ship pollution on coastal tourist regions

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Decision No 1600/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2002 laying down the Sixth Community Environment Action Programme,
 - having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1726/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2003 on the accelerated phasing-in of double-hull or equivalent design requirements for single-hull oil tankers, to reduce the risk of accidental oil pollution in European waters,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas coastal tourism provides a significant source of income for citizens of the European Union but this is now threatened by the alarming increase in ship-source pollution,
- B. whereas vessels berthed in port cause a significant amount of pollution not only on account of fuel spills but also through the washing out of their tanks, the discharge of ballast water and bilge water, the effects of fumes and the use of antifouling varnishes,
- C. whereas ship pollution damages coastal tourist areas, spoiling their natural charm and as a result jeopardising their potential tourism value,
1. Calls on the Commission to step up the campaign against ship pollution in order to conserve coastal tourist areas,
 2. Calls on the Commission to stress the importance of protecting the natural beauty of the European coastline in its agenda for future meetings,
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission and to the Council.