

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3381/02
by Brigitte Langenhagen (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Pilotage in shipping: incorporating preventive security

The terror attacks of 11 September 2001 and, more particularly, the attack on the French supertanker 'Limburg', clearly demonstrate the threat also posed by terrorists to international shipping. That applies in equal measure to international and to territorial waters. It puts not only maritime safety, intended to prevent shipping accidents and the resultant environmental damage, on the agenda, but also maritime security, in terms of preventive efforts to combat terrorism. I put the following questions to the Commission:

1. What options are open to the Commission for taking maritime security into account at European level in the future?
2. Is there the option of incorporating aspects of maritime security into the current negotiations on the 'port-package'?
3. Does the Commission share the view that great importance attaches to the availability of a public pilotage service in this connection, since it can assume the function of discharging sovereign responsibilities?