

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3405/02
by Carlos Bautista Ojeda (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Activities posing a threat to the environment in Gibraltar

Activities are permitted in Gibraltar, a United Kingdom territory to the south of Andalusia, which pose a threat to ecosystems in the area and the way of life of hundreds of thousands of European citizens. Activities such as the transfer of crude oil from one vessel to another are standard practice in Gibraltar, giving rise to recurrent discharges into the Bay of Algeciras without any administration intervening.

The port of Gibraltar also allowed docking by single-hulled oil tankers such as the Prestige, which sank on 19 November 2002 when it was heading for Gibraltar, causing an unprecedented ecological disaster along the Galician coast.

Is the Commission aware of the above circumstances? If so, has it adopted or will it adopt any type of measure to put an end to these irregularities?