

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3521/02
by Carlos Ripoll y Martínez de Bedoya (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Port inspections

On 14 November it was stated on the Gibraltar Government's web page (www.gibraltar.gov.uk) that the MV Prestige, wrecked off the Galician coast on 13 November, entered Gibraltar waters only once in the last four years, simply to refuel (bunkering), without coming into harbour.

This statement indicates that when a vessel is bunkering in those waters from a tank-ship operating as a fixed port installation, the Gibraltar authorities do not consider themselves obliged to carry out the inspections provided for under international and Community legislation (Port State Control).

Does the Commission agree with this interpretation?

Does the Commission consider that bunkering is in fact a port activity and therefore subject to all obligations stemming from the legislation governing such activities?