

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0319/03
by Dominique Souchet (NI)
to the Commission

Subject: Removal of Cyprus and Malta from the Black List in the Paris Memorandum

The Cypriot and Maltese flags are flags of free registration and are still deemed to be flags of convenience since they continue to appear on the Black List in the Paris Memorandum.

Cyprus and Malta are, however, countries applying for accession to the European Union. One condition for accession is that an applicant country must bring its legislation into line with the *acquis communautaire*. That being the case, Cyprus and Malta have undertaken to comply with European maritime legislation. As far as I am aware, they have asked, in that connection, for neither a transitional period nor a derogation.

According to its Regular Report for 2002, the Commission notes that, despite the progress made in the field of maritime safety, Cyprus and Malta must continue their efforts to have their names removed from the Black List.

1. What progress has been made by Cyprus and Malta in the transposition of the *acquis communautaire* in the maritime field?
2. Has a timetable for implementation been drawn up? If so, are the countries referred to complying with it?
3. What is the degree of actual implementation of the legislation? Do Cyprus and Malta really have the resources for and the determination to achieve rapid implementation?
4. When and how will Cyprus and Malta become signatories to the Paris Memorandum?
5. What undertakings have Cyprus and Malta given in relation to the campaign against flags of convenience?
6. What (tax and social) concessions are still being granted by Cyprus and Malta? What undertakings have Cyprus and Malta given in relation to tax concessions?
7. What is the average age of their respective fleets?
8. How will the Commission persuade Cyprus and Malta to comply at the earliest possible date with Community and international legislation?