

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0618/03

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to the Commission

Subject: Safety risk for divers owing to non-standard Deco tables

Deco tables protect divers from accidents (decompression accidents). Based on the length of time which the diver plans to spend at particular depths, the Deco tables make it possible to calculate the safety stops which the diver should make when ascending to prevent decompression sickness.

Both professional and recreational divers face the problem that there are no standard Deco tables in EU countries. The absence of European standards with a view to uniform Deco tables means that different times are given in the different EU countries for the duration of the dive at various depths, which increases the risk of diving accidents.

The 1992 Deco tables were modified in some EU countries in 2000. However, the changes made were not standardised.

Given that there are no uniform rules for Deco tables at European level, and divers consequently face an increased health risk, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Is the Commission aware of this problem?
2. Is the Commission considering taking steps to resolve this problem at European level?