

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1589/03

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to the Commission

Subject: Oil spills at the Gibraltar-Spanish Border

The press and the city councils of La Linea and Algeciras, Spain, have communicated widely about the dumping of oil and hydrocarbon waste just inside Gibraltar national waters, with large oil spills on the nearby Spanish coast as a direct consequence. These events occurred from August until October 2002 and are likely to happen again.

Our questions to the Commission are therefore:

- Has the Commission been informed by the Spanish or regional Government or the Government of Gibraltar about this problem? Does the Commission know of the problems?
- Must Gibraltar, given its peculiar position within the EU, comply with the EU legislation concerning oil waste deposit in harbours, as specified by directive 2000/59/EC¹ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2000 on port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues?
- Does Gibraltar comply with this EU legislation?
- What steps will the Commission take to solve this problem?

¹ OJ L 332, 28.12.2000, p. 81.