

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2658/03
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to the Commission

Subject: Allseas Group

While the European Parliament was debating the new directive on minimum training levels for workers at sea, there appeared virtually simultaneous press reports that the Swiss oil tanker company Allseas Group wanted to replace its Galician crews with Filipinos; 50 of the 600 employees have already been notified of their dismissal. The reason, according to the media, is the low cost of employing Filipino manpower.

1. Is the Commission aware of the sacking of these workers?
2. Is it known whether the contracts cover social security payments, sick leave and compensation for dismissal? What labour law applies to these contracts?
3. What measures does the Commission intend to propose with a view to preventing situations like this occurring, in which vocational training and qualifications - and consequently, both properly carried out work and safety considerations are sacrificed - on unacceptable economic pretexts?