

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0605/04
by Albert Maat (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Follow-up to question E-3005/02 on the European shipbuilding sector

In respect of the aid of approximately €700 million granted by the Spanish government to the Spanish shipbuilding sector, can the Commission answer following questions:

1. Was the Commission notified of this aid by the Spanish government?
2. Does the European Commission share the view that, given the scale of the Spanish shipbuilding industry, the amount has to be regarded as disproportionate?
3. Does the European Commission not agree that a thorough investigation is required into the action by the Spanish Government, which potentially involves a distortion of competition and, above all, into how the Spanish shipbuilding industry calculates its cost prices? Has the Commission already begun such an investigation and, if not, when will it do so?
4. In view of the seriousness of the general situation in the European shipbuilding sector, is the European Commission prepared to set up a crisis team that can respond quickly and monitor measures taken by Member States, in order to prevent unfair competition on the European internal market?