

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0395/05

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to the Commission

Subject: Group of Experts on strategy for dealing with accidents in the transport sector

On 11 June 2003 the Commission adopted a Decision (2003/425/EC<sup>1</sup>) on setting up a Group of Experts with a remit to advise the Commission on transport safety strategy and on improving existing legislation as well as on the need for new initiatives in this area for all modes of transport.

In the Transport White Paper the Commission also highlighted the importance of independent technical accident investigations and proposed that the Group of Experts should also have the task of adapting methodology, inter alia, to technical developments.

In this connection, the White Paper states that Directive 94/56/EC<sup>2</sup> on the investigation of civil aviation accidents and incidents may be regarded as setting an example for other modes of transport.

The European Parliament has serious concerns that in the majority of Member States disasters are not the subject of an independent investigation. Parliament attaches great importance to improving transport safety and to independent investigations into accidents and disasters at EU level.

1. What has been the experience with Directive 94/56/EC over the last ten years?

Does the Commission take the view that the basic principles deriving from Directive 94/56/EC concerning independent investigations into accidents in the civil aviation sector should serve as a starting point for measures in this area in connection with other modes of transport? Does the Group of Experts have this information?

Based on the findings of the Group of Experts, could the Commission put forward recommendations by mid-2006 on how independent accident investigations may be shaped at EU level? By what date and for which transport sectors (maritime transport, inland waterways, railways, roads and pipelines) are measures to be introduced? Have all of these sectors been presented to the Group of Experts, and what are the latter's findings in this connection?

2. Could the Commission inform Parliament by not later than July 2005 of the interim findings of the Group of Experts?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 144, 12.6.2003, p. 10

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 319, 12.12.1994, p. 14