

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0839/07

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to the Commission

Subject: Anti-pollution vessels

One of the measures designed to improve maritime safety in the European Union is the introduction of anti-pollution patrol vessels.

At present, the Atlantic area has only one vessel for this purpose, which is based in Brest (France). This means that if an accident occurs in the southern Atlantic, as was the case recently in Algeciras Bay, where the Sierra Nava ran aground, the simple fact of distance, if not the weather conditions, makes it impossible for the vessel to provide assistance.

In the 2006 financial year, enough money was allocated for the purchase of two additional vessels, one of which would be used to patrol the area between the Bay of Cádiz and the Dover Strait.

Can the Commission state how far the 2006 procurement procedures have progressed?

If the procedure in question has been completed, what was the outcome?