

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2841/07
by Ioannis Varvitsiotis (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Enlistment of doctors on passenger ships

With reference to a tragic event that occurred recently in Greece - namely the death of a ferry boat passenger in December 2006, I would like to ask the Commission the following questions:

- Should it not be made obligatory, in the case of vessels that undertake long voyages (including a night at sea) and carry large numbers of passengers on each voyage, for there to be a doctor on board?
- What does the relevant European legislation stipulate?
- If nothing has been laid down as yet, will the Commission not consider bringing forward a proposal on this matter that makes it obligatory for doctors to be enlisted on vessels that undertake long voyages, based on passenger numbers, the incidents that have arisen to date - be they minor or a man's death - and the fact that the presence of a doctor on those vessels would improve the services provided, as well as passenger safety, and could save lives?