

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6550/08
by Zdzisław Zbigniew Podkański (UEN)
to the Commission

Subject: Improving maritime labour conditions

Improving maritime labour conditions is one of the main challenges which the European Union must address. It is well known that over two-thirds of seafarers on EU-flagged ships are from third countries (mainly the Philippines, Ukraine and Russia). This situation results largely from inadequate regulations, which fail to provide job security for seafarers or safeguard their future. The initiatives recently adopted by Parliament and the Commission hold out the prospect of an integrated maritime policy in the EU. Unfortunately, progress is too slow and the efforts seem to be having little effect.

What specific measures is the Commission planning for improving the situation of seafarers, and when will those measures be put into practice?