

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3431/09
by Hanna Foltyn-Kubicka (UEN)
to the Commission

Subject: Polish shipyards and the financial crisis

In the light of the alarming new signals coming from the Commission suggesting that it may give an unfavourable opinion on the Polish Government's restructuring plan for the Gdansk shipyards, will the Commission give details of the factors underlying decisions which augur badly for the many thousands of workers employed in the Gdansk shipyards and partner firms?

In this time of crisis, none of the countries of Europe is fighting shy of taking protectionist economic measures, particularly in the financial sector and in heavy industry. That is why it is very surprising that the Commission is taking an unyielding position in refusing to change its stance on the Polish shipyards.

1. What is the Commission's current position on the Polish Government's plan for restructuring the shipyards?
2. In the light of the crisis and the EU's current policy, particularly as regards the shipbuilding sector, should the Commission not change its assessment of the restructuring plan for Polish shipyards?
3. Does the Commission not consider that, in this time of crisis, the evaluation of the long-term viability of the shipyards is unrealistic?
4. Does it think that a reduction in public aid, which has in any case already been cut back, can be reasonably justified in the current climate?