

Question for written answer E-005109/2012
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative
Rule 117
Vladko Todorov Panayotov (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - International piracy and maritime security

The phenomenon of pirate attacks against sea vessels in Somali waters and the international waters of this region is becoming more and more serious, notwithstanding the efforts of the international community to control it. It has huge economic and social costs for international trade, insurance companies, shipowners and, above all, for hostages and their families. One way of combating this would be to enable the shipowners to have private security services on board, similar to those used onshore by banks or other bodies. Their role would be to ensure the security of the vessel and to counter pirate attacks. The deterrent effect of such security services would be very high, and their presence on board could be possibly made known through a special flag that the vessel could fly next to the flag of its country of registration.

Can the Commission support such an initiative and, possibly, consider how it could be implemented?

Could a Green or White Paper be envisaged, possibly preceded by a study, with a view to submitting a proposal for an appropriate legal framework, including a possible international Convention, to cover the following: regulations governing the loading of weapons on board, the types of services that may be provided and the types of arms that may be used?