

Question for written answer E-001828/2019
to the Commission
Rule 130
Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Need to salvage the Sea Diamond

In 2007 the Sea Diamond cruise ship sank in the Santorini Caldera, drowning two passengers. Today, 12 years later, the ship's wreck is an 'environmental time bomb' lying at the bottom of the Caldera – a natural phenomenon and cultural monument of global significance. There is a risk that there may be an explosion resulting in the leakage not only of fuel from fuel tanks but also of dangerous chemicals such as refrigerants, hydraulic oils, heavy metals and other pollutants, as a 2010 study by the Technical University of Crete has warned¹.

Given the enormous risk of an environmental disaster, which was incidentally confirmed on 10/6/2018 by the collapse of the special barrier that had been installed in the wreck to contain pollution, and on the basis of Directive 2004/35/EC², which emphasises the polluter's obligation to remedy any environmental damage and also to minimise the risk of such damage, will the Commission say:

Why have the vessel's owners not been obliged to salvage the Sea Diamond in the 12 years since it sank?

What measures has it taken so far to ensure that the provisions of the Directive are implemented and that the Sea Diamond is recovered without further delay?

¹ Toxic and Hazardous Waste Management Laboratory of the School of Environmental Engineering of the Technical University of Crete https://ecoanemos.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/cf83cf85ceb3cebaceb5cebdcf84cf81cf89cf84ceb9cebaceb1_ceb1cf80cebfcf84ceb5cebbceb5cf83cebcceb1cf84ceb1_sea_diamond_25-02-2011.pdf

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32004L0035&from=EL>