

ORAL QUESTION H-0535/01

for Question Time at the part-session in July 2001  
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Per Stenmarck  
to the Commission

Subject: Competition

In 1996, a complaint was lodged with the Commission's Competition DG concerning abuse of a dominant position by the port of Helsingborg. The complainants, two of three shipping companies which use the port, considered that excessive fees were charged because of this dominant position. Pending a decision, one of the two companies has paid only half the amount of fees for using the port. The port of Helsingborg, therefore, now has a claim of SEK 240 million (approximately Euro 26 million) on the company. Almost five years since the complaint was lodged, the parties are still awaiting a decision from the Competition DG. Notification has been promised several times but as yet nothing has been forthcoming. The consequence of the delay is that two small companies do not know what financial parameters they have to work within. Is it reasonable for parties to have to wait almost five years for the Commission to take a decision?

Tabled: 05.06.2001  
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