

ORAL QUESTION H-0071/02

for Question Time at the part-session in March 2002

pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure

by Sylviane Ainardi

to the Commission

Subject: Situation of abandoned mariners

Cases of ships being abandoned by shipowners are increasing in Europe. As in Sète last year, these practices place seafarers in an intolerable situation, since they find themselves without wages, without any means of subsistence and with no possibility of returning to their countries.

In the light of such incidents, concrete action is needed to follow up the declared intention of making the occupation of seafarer more attractive. Further to the decisions taken with a view to creating a compensation fund for victims of pollution caused by oil spills, does the Commission not consider it necessary to set up a European guarantee fund, financed by a tax paid by all shipowners, which would ensure that payment is made for work carried out without awaiting the result of possible court cases against unscrupulous shipowners?

Tabled: 30.01.2002

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