

ORAL QUESTION H-0236/05
for Question Time at the part-session in April 2005
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Antonio López-Istúriz White
to the Commission

Subject: Recognition for the work of the fishing sector

The work of employees of the EU's fishing and maritime industry deserves greater social recognition.

Owing to my links with the Balearic Isles, I would like to draw attention to the work carried out by the fishing community of Palma de Mallorca. Over the last few years, these people have become involved in cleaning up the waters for purely altruistic reasons by placing themselves and their vessels at the disposal of Palma de Mallorca City Council. Their help has prevented an average of 250 tonnes of waste being washed up onto local beaches.

In view of the great many tourists that visit the islands, the region's fishing community would like to launch what is known as 'fishing tourism' in order to show visitors what working in the fishing industry entails. This is a new form of tourism that already exists in other Member States, such as Italy, and enables fishermen to acquaint people with the work they do while earning a living by occupying themselves with something other than the arduous work of fishing.

Unfortunately, this work is unknown to the vast majority of the population. This being the case, what is the Commission's view on this kind of initiative, which should help to improve the sector's image by familiarising people with the work of fishermen and boosting the fishing community's recognition among other sections of the population? Does the Commission intend to implement a project of this kind?

Tabled: 21.03.2005
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