

ORAL QUESTION H-0848/08  
for Question Time at the part-session in November 2008  
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Jacky Hénin  
to the Commission

Subject: Safety of sea straits in the European Union

In October 2008 two Liberian-registered cargo ships were involved in accidents near the coasts of the Strait of Gibraltar. The worst was prevented by the helpful and effective action of the European Maritime Safety Agency. However, these repeated accidents, plus the growing transport of hazardous goods by sea, give renewed urgency to the issue of tightening the safety rules governing all the European Union's sea straits and to the question of how to ensure these rules are respected. In particular, such straits and their approach routes should be classified as 'Seveso areas'.

What specific measures does the Commission propose to take to enhance the safety of sea straits in the Union?

Tabled: 22.10.2008  
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