

ORAL QUESTION H-0247/09
for Question Time at the part-session in May 2009
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Georgios Toussas
to the Commission

Subject: Scandal of shipowners' subsidies

Between 2000 and 2008, Greek shipowners collected 226,822,254.98 euro in subsidies for operating ferry services to islands on unprofitable routes. The subsidies soared with the PASOK government's introduction of Law No. 2932/2001, which implemented Regulation (EEC) No. 3577/92¹. In 2003, when the law entered into force, the subsidies shot up from 12,000,000 euro in 2002 to 25,180,000 euro. The scandal of shipowners receiving subsidies paid for by the Greek people is also being perpetuated by the current New Democracy government which, in 2008-2009 alone, secured the shipowners more than 100,000,000 euro, i.e. a profit of 267,315.41 euro per route. During the same period, fares rose by 376%.

What is the Commission's position on the substantiated allegations that shipowners are enjoying a 'goldmine' of subsidies for 'patented' unprofitable ferry routes? Why does it not publish the related report on ferry services within the Member States of the EU?

Tabled: 16.04.2009
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¹ OJ L 364, 12.12.1992, p. 7.