

ORAL QUESTION O-0004/00  
pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Dominique Souchet, on behalf of the UEN Group  
to the Commission

Subject: Measures envisaged by the Commission following the oil slick resulting from the wreck of the *Erika*

Following the wreck of the oil tanker *Erika* off the French coast of the Atlantic, can the Commission state what measures or initiatives it envisages taking in order to enhance the safety of merchant shipping sailing in Community waters, and in particular oil tankers?

Can it specify the action it intends to take in order to enforce existing legislation more stringently and whether it intends to extend liability for accidental pollution to charterers of the vessels involved?

Does the Commission also plan to strengthen Community legislation relating to flags of convenience, qualifications and social protection of crews?

Finally, does the Commission plan, by way of exception, to relax Community rules on competition in order to permit the intervention of the authorities in the revival of economic activities in the affected areas? Similarly, does the Commission envisage freezing the implementation of MAGPs in those areas?

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