

ORAL QUESTION O-0137/00

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Rosa Díez González, Pedro Aparicio Sánchez and Gary Titley, on behalf of the PSE Group
to the Commission

Subject: Repairs to the nuclear submarine Tireless in Gibraltar

The British nuclear submarine Tireless, which suffered damage in the Mediterranean, was towed to Gibraltar where it is now undergoing repairs after being moored there for several months. The damage to the submarine turned out to be more serious than first thought and the UK Government has withdrawn other submarines of the same type from its fleet.

Although the United Kingdom's independent Defence Nuclear Safety Committee has confirmed that the repairs can be safely carried out in Gibraltar, there is considerable alarm among the inhabitants of the surrounding region, which has been repeatedly voiced by the local authorities concerned.

In October 2000, in its answer to Oral Question nr 42. H-0783/00¹, the Commission said that there were Community provisions that concerned it directly (public information, health protection, measures to be taken in the event of a radiological emergency, etc.) and that it would therefore be contacting the UK authorities to remind them of their obligations in this area and to ascertain what measures were to be taken in application of the relevant Community law.

Will the Commission say what developments there have been in the meantime as regards its representations to the UK Government and whether or not a reply has been received?

In either case, will it also say what measures it has taken within its area of competence to protect and inform the public more effectively?

Tabled: 21.11.2000

Forwarded: 23.11.2000

Deadline for reply: 30.11.2000

¹ Written answer of 4.10.2000