ORAL QUESTION O-0021/01

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure by Enrique Barón Crespo, Carlos Westendorp y Cabeza, Martin Schulz, Erika Mann, Bernhard Rapkay, Wilhelm Piecyk and Garrelt Duin, on behalf of the PSE Group to the Commission

Subject: Situation in Community shipbuilding

On 14 December 2000, the European Parliament adopted the report on the second report from the Commission on the situation in world shipbuilding (A5-0371/00). In its resolution, Parliament regretted the Commission's decision of 29 November 2000 and the Council's decision of 5 December 2000 not to extend contract-related operating aid to European shipyards for the time being. At the same time, it called on the Commission to discuss with it, without delay, the measures that the Commission envisaged taking. Since, to date, the Commission has taken no steps to comply with that request, a debate on the Commission's work would seem to be appropriate, with a view to a positive conclusion being reached by the date laid down.

What progress has been made in discussions and in the procedure for the submission by the Commission, pursuant to the Council's decision of 5 December 2000, of a proposal for a prolongation of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) 1540/98<sup>1</sup> no later than 1 May 2001?

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OJ L 202, 18.7.1998, p. 1.