

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1901/02
by Theodorus Bouwman (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Progress in implementing Directive 2000/59/EC on port reception facilities

On 28 December 2000 Directive 2000/59/EC¹ on port reception facilities came into force. The deadline for implementation of the directive is 28 December 2002. We have received reports from the Netherlands that EU Member States are adopting widely differing approaches to financing the costs of implementation. As I had expected, in my capacity as rapporteur for this subject, only a few Member States have opted for indirect financing. Widely differing approaches between ports can lead to waste tourism and may perpetuate financial incentives to dumping waste at sea. It seems that less and less waste is now being handed in at the port of Rotterdam. Only 6% of the ships that call at the port unload waste.

Does the Commission share my view that there are wide variations in methods of implementing the directive and in the financing systems chosen, and that there is still hardly any sign of plans for a system of information exchange between ports?

Does the Commission agree that the great differences in financing methods and hence in costs to the shipping industry limit the effectiveness of the directive and even lead to waste tourism and continued dumping of waste at sea?

Is the Commission prepared, if the aforementioned differences in implementation justify it, not to wait for several years before carrying out an assessment, but to take action immediately by encouraging the Member States to coordinate financing systems more effectively and to launch an information exchange system in order to ensure that the directive has the desired effect?

¹ OJ L 332, 28.12.2000, p. 81.