

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3376/02  
by Felipe Camisón Asensio (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Accident at sea off the Galician coast

Legislation has been tightened up in the area of maritime safety in recent years because of the accident rate among vessels, especially oil tankers, which have a serious impact on coastal areas.

At Community level the Commission reacted by drawing up two packages of measures known as ERIKA I and ERIKA II. The aim of these packages was to strengthen inspection and safety systems in ports (port State control), among certification bodies (classification societies) and as regards vessels themselves (double-hull tankers).

In view of the accident off the Galician coast involving the tanker 'Prestige', which was apparently on its way from Latvia to Gibraltar, does the Commission consider that according to the information available Community rules regarding port State control have been complied with? If not, what measures will it adopt?