

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0324/03
by Carlos Bautista Ojeda (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Discharges into Algeciras Bay

At 5 o'clock on the morning of 21 January 2003, the lighter Spabunker IV sank in Algeciras Bay with 900 tonnes of fuel oil and just over 100 tonnes of diesel on board. The statement issued by the Algeciras harbour master's office on 22 January indicated that fuel had leaked from the vessel.

Is the Commission aware of this situation?

Since the Commission is responsible for upholding Community law, does it not consider it necessary, in order to avert further disasters of this kind, to accelerate the mandatory implementation of the rules on safety at sea adopted by the EU following the Erika disaster in all the zones that are at greatest risk owing to their high density of sea traffic?

Will the Commission take specific measures for Algeciras Bay just as it did for the Galician coast following the Prestige disaster?