

**Question for written answer P-006098/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Giorgos Grammatikakis (S&D)

Subject: Sinking of tanker in the Saronic Gulf

On Sunday, 10 September 2017, the Greek-flagged Agia Zoni II tanker sank in the Saronic Gulf, causing massive environmental pollution. The Merchant Vessel Inspectorate of the Greek Ministry of Mercantile Marine had issued the vessel with the necessary certificates valid up to 27 July and a two-month extension valid up to 29 September. The tanker had not, however, been inspected by shipping registry officials since 2008, when it was acquired by its present owner.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission consider that Greece is meeting its obligations under Directive 2009/21/EC on compliance with flag State requirements, requiring Member States to take the necessary measures for an International Maritime Organisation audit of their administration (Article 7) and maintain a quality management system for the operational parts of the flag State-related activities of their administration, certified in accordance with the applicable international quality standards (Article 8)?
2. Given the environmental damage such tankers may cause, will the Commission seek to amend European legislation so as to ban single-hull oil tankers, even below the 5000-tonne limit?

