

ORAL QUESTION H-0318/08
for Question Time at the part-session in May 2008
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Antonio López-Istúriz White
to the Commission

Subject: Continued failure of the Spanish Government to refloat the Don Pedro after it sank in the port of Ibiza on 12 July 2007

The merchant vessel Don Pedro, belonging to the company Iscomar, sank in the port of Ibiza on 12 July 2007. Severe damage has been caused to the ecosystem owing to the rupturing of the vessel's fuel tank and escape of fuel oil and mineral oil, and the subsequent dense tar-like spillages on three of the island's beaches, which had to be closed for several days. The Spanish Government ordered the leaks detected in the wreck of the vessel to be sealed, but in late August 2007 fuel oil started to reappear, after several storms had lashed the island, as did new patches of fuel, thereby causing further environmental damage in the natural park protected area. The vessel has still to be refloated and lies in 43 metres of water, with all the threats of pollution that entails.

What role have the European Commission, the European Maritime Safety Agency and CleanSeaNet played in this matter? Was assistance sought from CleanSeaNet, and if so, what technical solution did it propose to the Spanish State and the Government of the Balearic Islands?

Would it be possible for the Commission or European Maritime Safety Agency to require or advise the Spanish Government or the Balearic Islands Regional Government to refloat the vessel on environmental and health grounds?

Tabled: 22.04.2008
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