

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (O-83/83)

DOCUMENT 1-867/83

with debate, pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure
by Mrs LE ROUX, Mrs DE MARCH, Mrs POIRIER, Mr FRISCHMANN and
Mr WURTZ

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Use of flags of convenience

The Commission will certainly be aware of the fortunately minor consequences of the oil slick which affected the Camaret area of the Breton coastline at the beginning of September 1983 following the shipwreck of the 'Hydo' which was sailing under a Panamanian flag of convenience.

This ship, which was due to be scrapped, sailed despite the danger of storms and was towed, without having been cleared of gas, after several months at the port of Le Havre.

There has been sufficient evidence that the use of flags of convenience, a practice already condemned by Parliament following much more serious accidents, is a danger to the marine environment and to the safety of the crews.

What are the Commission's views on this matter?

Can it indicate what steps it has already taken to end this practice?