

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 28/78

ORAL QUESTION (O-10/78)

with debate pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
by Mr COINTAT on behalf of the Group of European Progressive
Democrats,

Mr CARPENTIER on behalf of the Socialist Group,

Mr COLIN on behalf of the Christian-Democratic Group
(Group of the European People's Party)

Mr BOURDELLES on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group

Mr SPICER on behalf of the European Conservative Group and

Mr EBERHARD on behalf of the Communist and Allies Group
(SF, Ind. Sin.)

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Shipping regulations

The 'Amoco Cadiz' catastrophe, which is the fourth such
disaster to have occurred off the coast of Brittany over the
past eleven years and which has been utterly ruinous both to
the local population and to the environment, is clear evidence -
if evidence were needed - that the absence of controls over
shipping can no longer be tolerated.

Does the Commission propose to campaign vigorously both at
Community level and within the international organizations for
the introduction of regulations which will effectively guarantee
a maximum level of safety?

In this connection, does it propose to tackle the root causes of the present lack of organization and to consider the following aspects of the problem: the use of flags of convenience; sea routes and their surveillance, notably by radar; special shipping lanes, well away from coastlines, for vessels carrying dangerous cargoes or contaminants; the professional qualifications of crews and their position as regards social security; insurance?

In view of the number of oil-tankers that have suffered shipwreck, would it not agree that giant freighters are too dangerous and that reasonable maximum tonnages should be prescribed?

Would it not also agree that the Community has all the powers necessary to ensure the conservation of its 200-mile economic maritime zone, including the power unilaterally to impose autonomous safety regulations on all vessels crossing that zone?

Finally, does it intend to propose that a Community contribution should be made from the funds set aside in Chapter 59 of the budget towards making good the losses suffered by the local population?