(2003/C 110 E/163)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2991/02
by Rosa Miguélez Ramos (PSE) to the Commission
(23 October 2002)

Subject: Measures to reduce fisheries accidents

Paragraph 13 of the EP’s resolution of 5 April 2001 on Fisheries: safety and causes of accidents (1) ‘calls on the Commission to compel Member States to establish a computerised life-raft service database to ensure that all fishing vessel owners are automatically notified to service their life-rafts on an annual basis as well as a similar reminder system for EPIRB and SART batteries’.

Paragraph 14 ‘calls on Member States to ensure that all fishing vessels are inspected annually to ensure that their obligatory lifesaving equipment is on board and in date’.

Has the Commission taken any steps in this connection?

What measures does the Commission think should be adopted with regard to life-saving to help reduce the number of fisheries accidents?


Answer given by Mr Fischler on behalf of the Commission
(6 December 2002)

Paragraph 13 of the resolution to which the Honourable Member refers has not given rise to any approach by the Commission to Member States for the purpose of their establishing computerised life-raft service databases designed to ensure that all fishing vessel owners are automatically notified each year of the need to have their rafts serviced and similar reminder systems for the batteries of emergency position-indicating radio beacons and search and rescue radar transponders. This would involve a very considerable amount of work where there is no equivalent for merchant shipping and responsibility for it would fall directly on the Member States.

Turning to paragraph 14 of the resolution, where Parliament calls on Member States to ensure ‘that all fishing vessels are inspected annually to ensure that their obligatory life-saving equipment is on board and in date’, it should be stated that Directive 97/70/EC (1) makes regular inspection by the flag Member State compulsory only for vessels more than 24 metres long. Other vessels are subject to national inspection arrangements. There is no provision, whatever the size of the vessel, for any audit of national administrations by the Commission on this matter.


(2003/C 110 E/164)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2992/02
by Rosa Miguélez Ramos (PSE) to the Commission
(23 October 2002)

Subject: Measures to reduce fisheries accidents

Paragraph 17 of the EP’s resolution of 5 April 2001 on Fisheries: safety and causes of accidents (1) ‘calls on the Commission to speed up the process of harmonising statistical data and concepts relating to occupational accidents with a view to establishing uniform criteria which will make it possible to identify
the causes of fishing accidents and developments in that field, and therefore calls for a regulation designed
to ensure that the Member States apply the various stages of the European statistics on fishing accidents
and European statistics on occupational diseases'.

Has the Commission taken any steps in this connection?


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**Answer given by Mr Solbes Mira on behalf of the Commission**

(29 November 2002)

Since 1990, the Commission, Eurostat and the Directorate-General for Employment and Social Affairs,
together with the competent national authorities, have been engaged in the harmonisation of European
statistics relating to accidents at work (ESAW Project(1)). The aim of the project is to coordinate the
criteria and methodologies applicable to the registration and transmission to the Commission of
occupational accident data. ESAW statistics covering all the Member States are currently available for the

With a view to stimulating a more vigorous policy for the prevention of occupational accidents in Europe,
a final phase (ESAW III) allowing the identification and analysis of the causes and circumstances of such
accidents, has just been initiated. Phase III data will gradually become available for the reference years

In the case of occupational diseases, data collection for the first phase of EODS (2) statistics has commenced
for the reference year 2001. Collection is based on a harmonised list of 69 medical diagnoses, coded in
accordance with the WHO ICD-10 (3), and a list of related agents. These data will be available annually
from 2003.

(1) ESAW: European Statistics on Accidents at Work.
(2) EODS: European Occupational Diseases Statistics.
(3) ICD: International Statistical Classification of Diseases.

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(2003/C 110 E/165)

**WRITTEN QUESTION E-2993/02**

by Rosa Miguélez Ramos (PSE) to the Commission

(23 October 2002)

Subject: Measures to reduce fisheries accidents

Paragraph 18 of the EP's resolution of 5 April 2001 on Fisheries: safety and causes of accidents (1) ‘urges the
Commission to require transparency as regards the information provided by Member States on ships
and their operation so that it can be incorporated into the real-time information system Equasis now being
set up by the Commission’.

Has the Commission taken any steps in this connection?