



Parliamentary questions

29 August 2013


E-009708-13

Question for written answer
to the Commission

Rule 117

Marc Tarabella (S&D)

► Subject: Gibraltar — Spain against the United Kingdom

 Answer(s)

The authorities in Gibraltar, a British territory, have sunk concrete blocks off the coast, forming an artificial reef and resulting in a diplomatic row between Spain and the United Kingdom. Spain maintains that this is impeding fishing. Since then, there have been long queues at the border between Spain and Gibraltar, with Gibraltar immediately accusing Spain of stepping up checks by way of reprisals.

The Spanish Government has reaffirmed that it will not abandon the checks, claiming that they are both mandatory (since neither Spain nor the United Kingdom is a member of the Schengen Area) and necessary (in order to combat smuggling, especially tobacco smuggling).

It is regrettable that recent diplomatic efforts have failed.

1. Is the Commission, as the guardian of the Treaties, intending to investigate?
2. What action can the Commission take to settle this dispute?
3. Can a decision be taken as quickly as possible so as to prevent the crisis from worsening, since that would benefit the eurosceptics' cause?

Original language of question: **FR**

OJ C 179, 12/06/2014

Last updated: 23 September 2013

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Parliamentary questions

4 October 2013

E-009708/2013

Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answers to Written Question E- 009281/2013 by Mr Daniel Hannan and **E-009591/2013** by Mrs. Diane Dodds.

OJ C 179, 12/06/2014

Last updated: 7 October 2013

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Parliamentary questions

3 October 2013

E-009591/2013

Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question E- 009281/2013 by Mr Daniel Hannan.

In addition, the Commission has always made clear that these checks must fully respect EC law and remain proportionate.

Following questions from Honourable Members and complaints from citizens alleging long waiting times at the crossing point of La Línea de la Concepción, the Commission contacted the Spanish authorities to obtain further clarifications. The Spanish authorities replied that the checks are carried out in compliance with EC law, that they are proportionate and that the delays are only occasional. To have a better understanding of the situation on the ground and to be able to finalise its assessment, the Commission is organising a technical visit to the area. The Commission will then decide if further action is necessary.

OJ C 88 E, 27/03/2014

Last updated: 7 October 2013

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