

# Intertanko awaits 'opinion' from ECJ

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The European Court of Justice (ECJ) is set to comment and shortly rule on the industry coalition case against new European "criminalisation" laws for marine pollution within this month.

Tanker owners association Intertanko, which heads the coalition, says the ECJ advocate-general is expected to deliver her opinion on the case on 20 November. A final court ruling is expected to follow within three months.

Intertanko points out that a ruling last week by the ECJ throwing out the so-called "directive on ship-source pollution" to be re-drafted is not connected with the industry case.

The ECJ ruling that the directive needed to be reworked was part of an internal case brought by the European Commission



**EUROPE: Institutions at odds over criminalisation laws for marine pollution**

Photo: Scanpix

(EC) against the Council of the European Union (EU).

Intertanko spokesman Bill Box said: "These proceedings are quite distinct from those brought by Intertanko and an industry

coalition to seek a review of the legality of the directive."

One legal expert warns the ECJ ruling could lead to more binding laws and tougher sanctions than those already included.

Erik Rosaeg, professor at the Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law, told TradeWinds: "The ruling plays into the EC's hands. It expected this decision. It can go back to the drawing board and draft laws that are more binding to the member states."

The man who drafted the directive on ship-source pollution, Henrik Ringbom, was set to defend the directive at a specially arranged discussion in Oslo today.

Intertanko and others claim it goes against international conventions such as Marpol and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos).