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# Industry may triumph in EU pollution row

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Reports suggest an industry coalition has won its case against new European Union (EU) laws that criminalise shipowners and seafarers for acts of accidental pollution but tanker body Intertanko says it has not yet been notified.

According to local sources, the European Court of Justice (ECJ), which heard the industry case against the European Ship Source Pollution directive in September, has ruled against the new EU law

on a “technicality”. The ruling indicates the new law had not been drafted properly by EU governments.

However, a spokesperson for Intertanko, which is heading up the industry lobbying group made up of Lloyd’s Register, the Greek Shipping Co-operation Committee, the International Salvage Union, Intercargo and others, says it has not been informed of any developments. “I think we would have been told if anything had happened,” he said.

The industry group’s case against the new law was based on the contention that it clashed with existing international conventions such as the Law of the Sea (Unclos). The group is also concerned over the legality use of the term “serious negligence” in defining criminality.

In a previous ruling last year at the High Court in London, Justice Hodge said Intertanko and its industry partners had a “well-founded case” and forwarded the matter to the ECJ.