

**2.7 Deputy S. Power of St. Brelade of the Minister for Economic Development regarding the tendering process for the stevedoring contract at the Port of St. Helier:**

Would the Minister advise the Assembly how many companies tendered for the stevedoring contract for the Port of St. Helier; if any of those companies had an existing commercial presence in the port; whether a contract has now been issued and if so to which company?

**Senator P.F.C. Ozouf (The Minister for Economic Development):**

I will be asking, if I may, my Assistant Minister to answer questions 8 and 13 as he has responsibility for them.

**Deputy A.J.H. Maclean of St. Helier (Assistant Minister for Economic Development - rapporteur):**

The stevedore contract has not been awarded and is currently the subject of ongoing negotiation. As such the information requested by the Deputy is currently of a commercially sensitive nature, which I am sure that Members will appreciate. However, once negotiations are complete and the contract is awarded all the information requested will be published.

**2.7.1 Deputy S. Power:**

I wonder could I ask the Assistant Minister to clarify for the Assembly how much longer he thinks this process will take and can he give an indication as to how long it has taken?

**Deputy A.J.H. Maclean:**

It is very difficult, Sir, to be absolutely precise with the time. We are hoping that within the next couple of weeks we will have a resolution to this and certainly by the end of the year. What I can say to the Deputy is that the process has taken far too long as far as I am concerned and indeed I have a great deal of sympathy for the incumbent's employees who have had to suffer with the uncertainty over an extended period. So, we are very keen to move for a quick resolution to this matter.