

**QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HARBOURS AND AIRPORT
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2003, BY SENATOR E.P. VIBERT**

Question 1

During the 'no confidence' debate on 5th November 2003, the President informed the States that under the Service Level Agreement there was no requirement for Emeraude Lines to operate two vessels. Would the President confirm that the Service Level Agreement did in fact contain this requirement, and, if so, would he agree that this could be described as misleading members?

Answer

The Service Level Agreement with Emeraude Lines signed in 1999 and cancelled in 2002 was, I am advised, created at the request of the company.

The company had made the decision to use two vessels because, I understand, it wished to travel to and from Guernsey and St Malo as well as Jersey and St Malo. Also, as the route was continuing to grow, it required two vessels to increase their capacity on the route.

The Committee had no power, vires or authority to require the company to operate two vessels, therefore the statement made by me during the debate, which was that the Committee did not require the company to operate two vessels, was correct as the requirement was that of the company, not the Committee.

Question 2

Following his statement to the Assembly on 11th November 2003, does the President accept that he misled members regarding the insurance of Solidor V in answering questions on 5th November 2003, and would he now consider resigning?

Answer

No and no.

Question 3

Would the President inform members whether the £300,000 owed to the States is ever likely to be paid, and, if not, whether the seizure of Solidor V served any purpose?

Answer

My belief at this time is that the monies due to the States are likely to be paid.

Question 4

Will the President inform members whether the Committee can refuse a ramp licence to whoever takes over Emeraude Lines for the St. Malo-St. Helier route in view of legal advice the Committee has received?

Answer

Yes.