

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HARBOURS AND AIRPORT
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY, 1st APRIL 2003, BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN**

Question

- (a) Will the President inform members whether the Committee has received the final report and scoping study from the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority, (J.C.R.A.), regarding the viability of having two separate car ferry companies, namely Condor Ferries Limited and Emeraude Lines, operating the Jersey-St. Malo route for a 12 month service period, and, if not, explain the Committee's rationale in granting a licence to Condor Ferries Limited prior to having received the J.C.R.A.'s report?
- (b) Will the President inform members whether Condor Ferries Limited and Emeraude Lines signed a memorandum of understanding with the J.C.R.A. to supply any relevant information to assist in determining whether the route was viable for more than one operator, and, if either party failed to comply, the reasons for this?
- (c) Will the President inform members of the cost to the States of the J.C.R.A. study to date, and what the final cost would be if the study was to be completed?
- (d) Will the President inform members whether the Committee is to bring the matter of shipping routes between St. Helier and St. Malo to the States for debate, and, if not, give the reasons for this?

Answer

- (a) A J.C.R.A. scoping study, "Competition Effects in the Car Ferry Services Market Serving the Island of Jersey", was received by the Committee in June 2002, and a Car Ferry Study was received in March 2003. No further work has been commissioned by the Harbours and Airport Committee from the J.C.R.A.
- (b) It is my understanding that Emeraude Lines have signed a memorandum of understanding with the J.C.R.A. and that Condor Ferries Limited have not. However, it is also my understanding that Condor Ferries have supplied information on route viability, but Emeraude Lines have not. I cannot speculate on the reasons for this.
- (c) The Scoping Study cost £11,839.58. I understand that the Economic Development Committee have received an invoice in the sum of £16,731.40 for the Car Ferry Study. The J.C.R.A. have quoted £45,000 plus consultancy, travel and disbursements for a phase 2 Car Ferry Study.
- (d) With shipping routes to and from the Island showing sustained and steady growth, the Committee considers that a States debate at this time will not assist this process further.