



---

*Plenary sitting*

---

**B8-0016/2017**

6.1.2017

# MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure

on research into bacteria which can eliminate plastics in the ocean

**Mireille D'Ornano**

**Motion for a European Parliament resolution on research into bacteria which can eliminate plastics in the ocean**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Articles 4, 11, 191 and 192 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas a wide-ranging international study published in December 2014 in the *Public Library of Science One* review calculated that there are 269 000 tonnes of rubbish floating in the oceans;
- B. whereas since 1950, the use of plastic has increased by a factor of 20 and is likely to double again in the coming 20 years, according to a January 2016 study by the World Economic Forum and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation;
- C. whereas these developments represent a threat to marine biodiversity (proliferation of some species on ‘plastic continents’, disappearance of marine species trapped in plastic or unable to survive its ingestion);
- D. whereas in 2016 a team of Japanese researchers found that some bacteria were able to break down the molecular bonds in the most common kind of plastic, polyethylene terephthalate (PET, or polyester);
- 1. Urges the Commission to support research into ‘plastic-eating’ bacteria in order to determine which ones might be used to prevent the oceans becoming clogged up with plastic.