

**Question for written answer E-006375/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Marine pollution on the Akamas peninsula: a catastrophic threat to the environment

The Akamas peninsula, as described in the EU's environmental protection management plan, is located in the north-western tip of Cyprus. It already forms part of the Natura 2000 network and is unique, since almost all the geological formations present in Cyprus are to be found there. For this reason, it has a unique variety of habitats and ecosystems that make it essentially one of the few remaining wild areas in Cyprus.

However, the Akamas peninsula is facing a very serious threat from pollution from passing ships which fail to take the necessary measures to manage their waste properly. The problem has worsened in recent days on the beach area of the small island of Geronisos, which has become literally a waste tip for the garbage dumped daily by Turkish ships passing through the maritime area (images/documents are available for the Commission to examine).

Besides the widespread damage to the archaeological heritage of the region, the damage to the environment is an extremely serious issue. It is our environment, our lives that are affected.

Will the Commission say: is it aware of the enormous pollution problem facing the Akamas peninsula from passing vessels? What steps is it taking to prevent and tackle this phenomenon?