

**Question for written answer E-009022/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Daniela Aiuto (EFDD)**

Subject: Beached sperm whales on the Adriatic coast

On 12 September 2014, a number of beached sperm whales were found along the Italian Adriatic coast near Vasto, in the province of Chieti. Studies have identified a potential link between these incidents and explorations carried out on the seabed.

In its decision of 17 December 2012, the Council stated that the Union should take all necessary steps to support offshore exploration and exploitation activities and to protect the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea.

Directive 2008/56/EC requires Member States to take all necessary steps to maintain good environmental status in the marine waters of the Mediterranean.

1. Does the Commission intend to investigate the methods used in carrying out seabed exploration along the Adriatic coast?
2. Does it believe that the pollution resulting from exploration of the seabed and subsoil constitutes a breach of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea?