

**Question for written answer E-010633/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Protection of the North Adriatic basin

Many people live in the North Adriatic region and their livelihood is directly related to the sea. This is undeniably the case in regards to the fishery industry and tourism economy. The impact of these economic sectors on the overall life in the North Adriatic has resulted in high standards of living in many cities. On the other hand, the abundance of inhabitants and tourists has a negative effect on pollution of the Adriatic Sea.

Also, the North Adriatic has a large number of industrial ports with significant traffic of large ships near the coast (Venice, Trieste, Kopar and Rijeka).

The depth of the Adriatic Sea is extremely shallow in this area – about 30 m deep. Taking into consideration the number of inhabitants and the release of significant quantities of waste water directly into the sea, as well as the pollution caused by cargo and passenger ships, a unique cross-border cooperation is necessary.

The Adriatic is additionally polluted by the river Po, which flows into the North Adriatic and causes pollution to reach the west coast of Istria.

My question to the Commission is whether there is a common policy on the protection of the North Adriatic basin and what mechanisms the European Commission intends to use to ensure sustainable development of the economy in the North Adriatic?