

**Question for written answer E-010635/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)**

**Subject:** The use of hydroplanes for the purpose of connecting Adriatic cities and islands

The tourist industry of the Adriatic Sea has a significant effect on the economic prosperity of that territory. Many cities by the Adriatic Sea have airports used by travellers from numerous European destinations. However, the interconnection of these airports is at an insignificant level. In this sense, the abundance of islands on the Adriatic coast, especially in the eastern part, must be taken into consideration. These islands have poor connections with the continent, especially in case of emergencies.

The poor connection of the Adriatic cities is exemplified by the recent visit of Split's mayor, Ivo Baldasar, to the Italian city of Pescara, in which it took more than 18 hours to cover a distance which in reality was about 120 km.

An initiative which is currently being developed is the connection of Adriatic cities and islands by hydroplanes. Since a quality connection requires adequate infrastructure (pontoon bridges), as well as a number of marketing activities to attract travellers, initial investments are significant. The more intense use of hydroplanes would create excellent opportunities for fast and quality connection of Adriatic cities and islands.

How can the Commission get involved in the financial support of such projects in order to stimulate more intense use of hydroplanes for higher quality connection of Adriatic cities and islands for tourism and other purposes?