

**Question for written answer E-000875/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Rising level of the Mediterranean Sea

Climate changes directly affect ocean and sea levels on our planet. According to studies carried out by various institutes, it is possible that the level of the Mediterranean Sea will rise at a yearly rate of about 1.5 to 1.9 millimetres. This information suggests that the sea level in Mediterranean cities will rise by approximately 1 metre by the end of this decade. This will dramatically affect many areas on the Mediterranean Sea, and as the person responsible for submitting a Report on the Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region I am aware of the enormous negative consequences for areas such as the mouth of the river Neretva in Croatia or the mouth of the river Po in Italy. This, of course, also carries a high risk for life on many Adriatic islands as well as for the entire coastal area where we have a number of cities under UNESCO protection, such as Poreč, Zadar, Šibenik, Split, Trogir and Dubrovnik in Croatia. Certainly the most striking problem on the Adriatic is Venice with its lagoon, which now already suffers enormous damage at each slightly bigger rise in sea level.

I ask the Commission what mechanisms are available and how they are intended to be employed to respond to this biggest challenge of the century?