

**Question for written answer E-001755/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Therese Comodini Cachia (PPE)

Subject: Coastal and maritime ecotourism and island connectivity

Sustainable tourism plays a key role in the economy of the Central Mediterranean islands. However, in some cases island connectivity is a barrier to coastal and maritime eco-tourism, especially in off-peak seasons. One of the European Strategy communication's fourteen actions states that the Commission will undertake research into how to improve island connectivity, and design innovative tourism strategies for islands accordingly. Member States have also been encouraged to use national and regional strategies to improve the accessibility of islands and remote locations.

1. To what extent has Malta responded to this call by the Commission?
2. What target dates have been set by the Commission for completion of the proposed study?