

**Question for written answer E-001808/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: The problem of mercury in the waters of the northern Adriatic

According to relevant research, the Bay of Trieste (northern Adriatic) is one of the areas of the Mediterranean contaminated by mercury because of the former mining activity in Idrija (western Slovenia). The connection between the microbial origin of methylated mercury and its bioaccumulation and biomagnification in the food chains of the waters of the bay is not very well known, although it is crucial for understanding the links between the sources and organisms at a higher level of the food chain, e.g. fish, which are vectors of transmission of pollution to humans and other organisms. Mercury is the most toxic metal and mercury poisoning due to exposure of the human body through the consumption of fish and shellfish leads to serious health consequences. I was approached on the subject by acquaintances with an elevated concentration of mercury found in the body who suspects that the causes of this have to do with the consumption of fish and other marine organisms.

Prompted by this, I would like to ask if the European Commission is acquainted with the above problem?

How is the European Commission acting or planning to act in terms of addressing the environmental and health aspects of the problem?