

**Question for written answer E-004167/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Marine protected areas

Many Mediterranean countries have committed, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, to contributing to the objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which established, before 2012, systems of completely protected and ecologically representative national and regional areas, covering at least 10 % of marine and coastal areas.

Taking into account the difficulties of achieving this objective, it was postponed until 2020 after its adoption in Nagoya (2010) by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the parties which signed up to the Barcelona Convention (2012).

In addition, the Commission's Communication concerning the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region, dated 17 June 2014, highlighted, among its objectives, 'the establishment of a coherent network of Marine Protected Areas under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive', which seeks '10 % surface coverage by 2020 of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas by Marine Protected areas, in line with international commitments'.

Considering that the protected areas currently cover only 0.4 % of the surface of the Adriatic Sea and 1.08 % of the Mediterranean (excluding the Cetacean Sanctuary), can the Commission answer the following questions:

- is there a timetable to be implemented until 2020?
- how does it intend to proceed, in concrete terms, to achieve such an ambitious goal?