

**Question for written answer E-006071/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Pollution in Cádiz (Spain)

One of the objectives of EU environmental policy, set out in the Environmental Action Programmes, is to achieve levels of air quality that do not give rise to significant negative impacts or risks to human health or the environment. In this respect, Directive 2012/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 November 2012, intends to regulate the sulphur content of marine fuels in order to reduce pollution from sulphur oxide (SO_x).

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) designated two Sulphur Emission Control Areas (SECAs) within the EU – the Baltic Sea and the North Sea and the English Channel – to protect territories that are particularly sensitive to pollution.

However, there are other territories particularly affected by pollution that do not have such protection: for example in the Bay of Gibraltar area, with its industrial hub, and the Strait of Gibraltar (Cádiz), with some of the most intense and aggressive maritime traffic in the EU, a serious risk is being posed to human health and the environment.

Will the Commission be taking any initiative to correct this situation?