

**Question for written answer E-009474/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (NI)

Subject: Plastic pollution in the Mediterranean

A study on pollution in the Mediterranean conducted by the University of Cadiz and published in April 2015 paints an alarming picture.

Plastic was found in samples taken from every single zone, and the average concentration was 423 grammes per square kilometre. To put it another way, the surface waters of the Mediterranean contain between 756 and 2969 tonnes of plastic. Although many large pieces of plastic were found, most of the pollution takes the form of microplastics.

These grim findings highlight the threat which plastic poses to the marine ecosystem. What is more, marine animals ingest microplastics, which thus enter the food chain.

1. Does the Commission think that enough is being done to curb and reduce microplastic pollution in the Mediterranean?
2. Does the Commission plan to carry out an assessment of the health risks which this pollution poses to people who eat foods from the Mediterranean?