

**Question for written answer E-009587/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: Submerged tyres at sea

Since the 1960s, millions of tyres have been submerged in the world's seas and oceans in order to create artificial reefs.

Tyres have normally been submerged in order to develop fish production and sustain fishing by recreating an artificial habitat for marine flora and fauna. However, the tyres have had another effect: being covered in hydrocarbons, they release heavy metals into the environment as they gradually decompose.

We are therefore starting to take a step back and removing these tyres from the oceans. In France, for example, a programme has been launched to remove 25 000 tyres submerged in the Mediterranean between Cannes and Antibes.

1. Does the Commission have any figures which show the extent of this issue in the EU?
2. Could the Commission provide financial support to Member States and associations which wish to remove submerged tyres?