

**Question for written answer E-013665/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Acidification of waters

According to a recent UN report, ocean acidification will eventually entail a loss of income for the maritime, fisheries and tourism sectors, and will also affect the 'services' that are provided by ecosystems: it is estimated that USD 3 000 billion will be lost within the next 85 years (by 2100).

Since the end of the 19th century there has been a 30 % rise in atmospheric CO₂ levels, and surface water temperature has increased by 0.5 °C. Where acidification is concerned, surface water pH has reduced by 0.1 of a unit since 1970, which represents a 25 % increase in water acidity in proportion to H⁺ ion concentration. It has been estimated that unless steps are taken to prevent pH from continuing to drop in this way, it could be as low as 7.8 by 2100 (as opposed to 8.1 at present).

Aside from the fact that acidification causes financial losses, it is also affecting a whole range of living organisms such as microscopic algae, corals and all forms of shelled creatures. However, gelatinous organisms such as jellyfish are thriving, placing other species at risk.

1. Is the Commission aware of the report in question?
2. If so, what measures is the Commission able to take to prevent the acidification of the oceans?