

**Question for written answer E-000711/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Protection of Mediterranean ecosystems against a background of rapidly expanding oil extraction

In terms of its size, the Mediterranean Sea represents only 1 % of the world's oceans and yet it holds approximately 5 % of the world's oil reserves. The September 2015 MedTrends report 'Blue Growth in the Mediterranean Sea: the Challenges of Good Environmental Status' (French version published on 19 January 2016) says that oil production in the Mediterranean could well increase by nearly 60 % between 2010 and 2020.

By 2030 gas production could have increased five-fold. Maritime transport is expected to have doubled by then and tourist arrivals to have hit the 500 million per year mark.

There is good reason to fear that the race to exploit these resources will disrupt Mediterranean ecosystems, which are, amongst other things, home to up to 20 % of known marine species.

1. What tangible actions is the Commission planning to prevent this disruption to ecosystems?
2. The European Union has set itself the goal of returning European marine waters to a 'good ecological status' before 2020. However, has the Commission taken into account the fact that 2020 onwards is precisely when the situation is likely to get worse?