

**Question for written answer E-007971/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Edward Czesak (ECR)**

Subject: International mapping of floating garbage patches

Floating garbage patches pose a serious threat to the environment and to human health. In the Commission's view, what action should be taken to eradicate them?

Does the Commission have scientific data showing the extent of the harm floating garbage patches have caused to the fisheries and marine transport sectors so far? Does it have data showing the extent to which garbage patches have affected water quality?

According to studies published in the PLOS ONE journal, 250 000 tonnes of debris is floating on the surface of the world's oceans. In the Commission's view, should a series of global studies not be carried out so that the garbage patches may be located and the problem may be tackled by starting in the areas where it is most serious?