

**Question for written answer E-000110/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)

Subject: Environmental condition of the Baltic Sea

On 12 April 2016 the European Court of Auditors published Special Report No 3 on Combating eutrophication in the Baltic Sea. The report begins: 'The Baltic Sea is one of the world's most polluted seas and eutrophication is seen as its greatest challenge'.

However, the Court of Auditors report deals only with the EU's sea areas, not with the whole world. The report also states that there is a lack of data from the Black Sea and most of the Mediterranean. Thus there is much data missing on a large proportion of the EU's sea areas.

The Court of Auditors clearly did not choose to make use of the most recent report by the European Environment Agency on this subject, from March 2015, even though it was available a whole year before the Special Report appeared.

According to the two Environment Agency reports, the Baltic Sea does not stand out as being particularly polluted by comparison with the other EU sea areas investigated.

Furthermore, the Special Report is not about the environmental state of the Baltic Sea at all, but about implementation of and compliance with EU law in the individual EU countries with Baltic Sea coasts.

The Special Report's statement on the environmental state of the Baltic Sea is therefore downright misleading.

Why does the Commission's Environment DG, in its correspondence on the environmental state of the Baltic Sea, refer to a special report of the European Court of Auditors which makes highly misleading statements about the environment in the Baltic?

Can the Commission please also state what measures the Commission's Environment DG will be taking to correct this misinformation?