

**Question for written answer E-002489/2018**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Francesc Gambús (PPE)**

Subject: The state of red coral in the western Mediterranean

In January 2017, the science journal *Nature* published an article<sup>1</sup> which called for the re-evaluation of the baseline for red coral (*Corallium rubrum*) and questioned the sustainability of the exploitation of a species that is still common but functionally extinct and in a trajectory of further decline. Similar concerns have been expressed by the lawyer for the Asociación Profesional de Coraleros, Guillem Bossacoma, who said<sup>2</sup> that the granting of 12 permits to exploit the red coral in external waters off the Catalan coast will see the area being exploited without rest and possibly destroyed within a decade.

Taking into account the presentation made in Parliament<sup>3</sup> on the situation:

- (1) What information does the Commission have on the current state of red coral off the Catalan coast?
- (2) What is the Commission's view of the various measures taken in the area by the different administrations acting in accordance with their areas of responsibility?
- (3) Does the Commission consider that the measures taken comply with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Directive on the protection of biodiversity?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/srep42404.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://elpais.com/ccaa/2018/04/26/catalunya/1524731814\\_262556.html](https://elpais.com/ccaa/2018/04/26/catalunya/1524731814_262556.html)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/115929/SAINZ-TRAPAGA.pdf>