

**Question for written answer E-003560/2018  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Bernd Lange (S&D)**

Subject: Deep-sea mining

According to experts, there is no doubt that deep-sea mining constitutes a severe intrusion of the marine ecosystem, with the result that unique habitats would be destroyed. Water would be polluted, fish stocks depleted and tourism impaired. It is probable that the place where mining for raw materials would begin is in the Pacific. A large part of the population in this area depend on fishing and tourism to make a living.

1. How is the subject of deep-sea mining being handled in discussions between the Pacific Community and the EU, and the Pacific Islands Forum and the EU?
2. What conclusions does the Commission draw from the 'SPC-EU Deep Sea Minerals Project'?
3. What is the Commission's position on the Solwara 1 Project that is supposed to be starting in 2019 in Papua New Guinea, without any deep-sea mining legislation in place?