

**Question for written answer E-001672/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Lefteris Christoforou (PPE)

Subject: Impact of the invasion of non-native fish species in the Eastern Mediterranean

In the last few years the Lessepsian Migration has resulted in an 'invasion' of fish species entering the Eastern Mediterranean from the Red Sea or the Indian Ocean via the Suez Canal. Typical invasive species include the common lionfish (*Pterois miles*) and the silver-cheeked toadfish (*Lagocephalus sceleratus*). The former species feeds on fish that are crucial to the region's fishing economy; the latter is poisonous and causes significant damage to fishing nets in the area. This mostly occurs in Cyprus and Greece, particularly in the Aegean Islands and in Crete.

In view of this:

- (1) Does the Commission have any information about the population of these species in the region?
- (2) How will it help Member States address this phenomenon?
- (3) Can measures be taken to compensate the fishermen involved and redress the damage the Lessepsian Migration has caused them?

Supporter¹

¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the author: Theodoros Zagorakis (PPE)