

**Question for written answer P-008123/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Removal of sunken tyres

Since the 1970s, many countries, including France, have created artificial reefs to develop fisheries resources. Some of these reefs were created by sinking used tyres onto the seabed.

Unfortunately, contrary to the aim assigned to them, these reefs have degraded the marine environment: on the one hand, the swell and sea currents have scattered the tyres, producing unsightly results and degrading neighbouring ecosystems; on the other hand, the decomposition of the tyres has released hydrocarbons and heavy metals which are toxic to marine organisms.

In France, the Protected Marine Areas Agency, which falls under the Ministry of Ecology, is currently conducting a pilot project to remove 10% of the 25 000 tyres which were sunk between Cannes and Antibes in the 1980s. This project has cost the Agency €160 000, while the ERDF has provided a grant equivalent to 55% of this amount.

The cost of this environmental restoration project might be an obstacle to the removal of all the tyres sunk off the coasts of France or Europe.

What action will the Commission take to promote the removal of all reefs created from used tyres?  
Will the proposed funding be sufficient to assist the local authorities concerned?