

**Question for written answer P-008876/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)**

Subject: Consequences of invasive species (Red Sea creatures) in the Mediterranean Sea

Red Sea pufferfish colonising the eastern Mediterranean are so poisonous that they kill about one in ten people coming into contact with them. Summer swarms of a stinging Red Sea jellyfish, stretching as far west as Italy, force beach closures and clog intake pipes at desalination and power plants. Rabbitfish from the Red Sea destroy Mediterranean algae that otherwise feed native fish.

Egypt is enlarging the Suez Canal to double its ship capacity, and scientists worry that more Red Sea creatures will then make their way into the Mediterranean.

The cost in documented damage to fisheries and aquaculture in the EU per year has been estimated at EUR 240 million. Existing EU legislation (dating mostly from 2007) and policies provide part of the solution to the problem of invasive species. However, there is no harmonised system or consistency of approach between neighbouring countries to monitor and control invasive species and their effects on European biodiversity. The need for coordinated action has been expressed at the highest political level. The Commission proposes a number of possible options. These include maximising the use of existing legislation together with voluntary measures.

Are immediate and practical solutions being considered in the particular case of Red Sea creatures?

What practical projects are already in place to tackle these problems in the Mediterranean Sea?