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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0237/2019**

10.12.2019

# **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

pursuant to Rule 143 of the Rules of Procedure

on protecting European seas and oceans

**Nuno Melo**

**European Parliament motion for a resolution on protecting European seas and oceans**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 143 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the large quantities of plastics in the oceans pose one of the most serious threats to marine life, human health, the climate and the EU economy;
- B. whereas, according to recent UN data, 8 million tonnes of plastic find their way into the oceans every year, killing 100 000 marine animals; whereas, through fish, microplastics enter the food chain; whereas the ocean is expected to contain one tonne of plastic for every three tonnes of fish by 2025;
- 1. Stresses that some of the pro-cohesion policy countries facing the greatest economic and financial difficulties are those with the largest exclusive economic zones, such as Portugal and Spain;
- 2. Takes the view that cleaning up the respective oceans benefits the entire planet by reducing the dispersion of plastic pollutants along tides;
- 3. Underlines that this is only possible by allocating a realistic and sufficient amount of financial resources.

Urges the Commission to:

- Ensure sufficient funds are allocated and that Member States may apply for specific funds to clean up all types of plastic-derived pollutants, other than those resulting from fishing gear.
- Suggest that this programme be called ‘Zero plastic in the oceans’ so as to stress its overriding priority.