

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0981/04

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to the Commission

Subject: Protection and conservation of the marine environment

On 19 June 2003 Parliament adopted a resolution on the Commission communication: 'Towards a strategy to protect and conserve the marine environment' (P5\_TA(2003)0295).

In the resolution Members called for greater integration of environmental protection considerations into decision-making processes and for the protection and conservation of marine ecosystems, which are of vital importance in safeguarding biodiversity.

Parliament also called on the Commission to put forward, as soon as possible, a consistent and harmonised thematic strategy on the marine environment, not least in view of the current critical state of some marine ecosystems.

Can the Commission state whether, when it drew up the strategy, it took due account of the following:

- the precautionary principle;
- the concept of sustainability;
- a strategic environmental assessment;
- an integrated approach to address threats caused by all human activities affecting the marine environment and a careful assessment of their impact on this environment and the mutual influence and dependency of such impacts;
- an integrated approach regarding coastal and offshore marine management;
- a regional approach taking into account regional diversities, ecological characteristics, threats and socio-economic aspects;
- strategic marine spatial planning for the regional seas covering the whole of the EU continental shelf, which would introduce a plan-led approach to the sectoral decision-making systems?