

**Question for written answer E-006414/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
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Subject: Reception of sewage from ships and small boats at Baltic seaports

One of the main aims of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is to improve the ecological status of the sea. Eutrophication is, according to the strategy, recognised to be one of the sea's worst environmental problems. The Baltic is one of the world's most polluted seas.

One source of the nutrients which cause eutrophication is the waste water from ships' and boats' toilets. Some Baltic seaports are equipped to receive this sewage, but many others are not. The problem is caused by both large cruise liners and smaller pleasure craft. It is important that ships and small boats should be able to empty their waste water into port receiving tanks, from where it can be piped to a proper sewage treatment plant; in this way the seawater nutrient and microbial load can be reduced.

What action will the Commission take with a view to developing reception facilities for ship and boat sewage at Baltic seaports?