

**Question for written answer E-003739/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Towards a western Mediterranean macro-region

In 2009, the first strategic macro-region was established around the Baltic Sea. Its aim was to coordinate a variety of policies based on common aims across a functional geographical area. This type of macro-regional strategy has since been applied in other regions, in the form of the Danube and Alpine macro-regions.

Such strategies enable greater synergy to be achieved between the various European regional infrastructure policies, such as integrated maritime policy, cohesion policy or trans-European transport networks.

In June 2012, the European Parliament's report on the 'evolution of macro-regional strategies' underlined the positive feedback from these macro-regions and called for the creation of a macro-regional strategy for the Mediterranean, with three subdivisions for the eastern Mediterranean, the Adriatic and Ionian seas and the western Mediterranean.

1. Does the Commission believe that an area such as the 'Latin-Mediterranean arc' of Spain, France, Italy, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia – countries with a number of shared challenges and traits – might constitute a coherent, legitimate candidate for the creation of a macro-region?
2. Is the Commission planning any regional coordination mechanisms for the various European policies being implemented in the western Mediterranean, in particular the transnational European regional cooperation policies, the Culture and Erasmus+ programmes, the programmes for sea basins under the European Neighbourhood Instrument and the Mediterranean strategies of ARLEM and the EU?