

**Question for written answer E-003049/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jean-Marie Le Pen (NI)

Subject: Possible harm to marine life caused by Low Frequency Active Sonar

The US navy was authorised several years ago to develop and deploy a new high-intensity sonar system to detect and track hostile submarines.

This Low Frequency Active Sonar (LFAS) system is to emit sounds reaching a decibel level of 240 in 75% of the world's oceans. Many other countries are developing similar systems to NATO's.

However, studies and examples have shown that this system seriously disrupts both communication and reproduction in large cetaceans. For example, autopsies on whales stranded in the Bahamas have revealed signs of haemorrhaging linked to the effect of the sonar. The same signs were found in the cases of the mass stranding of cetaceans on the Canaries in 2002 during NATO exercises and of the 400 dolphins stranded in one go on Zanzibar.

1. Is the Commission aware of the harmful effects of LFAS on marine life?
2. Is it planning to have a study carried out, or is a study already under way, of the effects on marine life of this sonar system?
3. Is it considering urging countries to ban the use of this system?