

**Question for written answer E-001637/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Tiemo Wölken (S&D)

Subject: Paraffin pollution and countermeasures at IMO level

Paraffin pollution continues to be a problem, including on North Sea beaches. In its answer given to a question in 2015 (E-010883-14) concerning discharges of paraffin, the Commission referred to negotiations under the Marpol Convention and stated that it wished to take its own measures if these negotiations failed to impose stricter rules on the discharging of paraffin. In February, the IMO Technical Committee responsible put forward a proposal for new rules on the discharging of highly viscous products, according to which the residues of these products must also be disposed of in port reception facilities following separate tank washing. The rules are due to be adopted by the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in October 2018.

1. Does the Commission consider that the measures proposed by the IMO are sufficient to prevent paraffin pollution in future or is further action needed at IMO level?
2. Does the Commission intend to take additional measures at EU level?
3. Will its proposal for a review of the Directive on port reception facilities strengthen measures against pollution by high-viscosity substances such as paraffin?