

Question for written answer E-001705/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Ivica Tolić (PPE)

Subject: Pollution of the Croatian sea and coast with waste from neighbouring countries

For some time Croatia has been faced with the problem of large quantities of plastic and even medical waste that keep piling up on its coast. The waste comes from other Adriatic countries, mostly from Albania, a candidate for membership of the EU.

Waste that has not been disposed of properly or responsibly in those countries, especially Albania, gets carried away on the Adriatic and is eventually washed ashore in Croatia. Many islands, coves, and beaches are struggling with this problem, but every solution employed to date has proved to be a one-off and hence ineffective. The build-up of waste is removed, but the tide repeatedly brings fresh batches. The problem needs to be tackled in a systematic way and has to be dealt with at Union level, given that this is not just a local or regional matter, but an international issue requiring EU involvement.

Not only is the waste polluting Croatia's islands, coast, and sea, but it is also affecting the environment and human health and might even entail adverse economic consequences for Croatia, a fully-fledged member of the EU and a tourist country known for its clean sea and beaches, and which, just when the tourist season is about to start, is having to contend with a problem that will be difficult to surmount single-handedly.

Bearing that point in mind, will the Commission help to bring about a solution? If so, how?