

**Question for written answer E-006283/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Francis Zammit Dimech (PPE)

Subject: Fighting marine litter: White Flag initiative

Millions of items of plastic waste end up in the sea. There is no doubt that much awareness must be raised in society about the threats posed by plastic litter to ecosystems. The Whiteflag International Foundation has launched an initiative with a view to achieving 'plastic-free beaches'. The Commission has attended events organised by the foundation in Malta.

However, several concerns have been raised by the media as to whether such clean-ups are genuine and various allegations have been made about the campaign, with some describing it as a scam.

1. Can the Commission confirm whether any due diligence had been carried out on the organisation prior to its own participation?
2. Can it clarify whether it still supports the White Flag initiative?
3. Can it confirm whether any EU funds have been channelled for such clean-ups, either directly or indirectly?