

Question for written answer E-000476/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Kris Peeters (PPE)

Subject: Funding for projects to collect and recycle plastic waste in rivers and the sea

Plastic waste does not just all too obviously damage the environment and harm health. It also has an adverse economic impact on coastal communities, tourism, shipping and fishing.

Various start-ups and long-established firms are putting great efforts into innovation in order to develop systems to collect plastic waste in rivers and the sea. The development stage was backed by subsidies from various programmes such as Horizon 2020 and LIFE. Some of these companies are now ready to proceed to trials. However it is unclear how these projects can be made economically feasible. No viable business model that would make such clean-up operations self-supporting exists: it is unlikely the income from recycling will be able to cover the costs of the clean-up work.

I am of the opinion that given the Commission's goals for the Green Deal, it needs to develop financial support or legislative initiatives to support companies working in this sector and make this more financially profitable.

Is the Commission planning to develop any such initiatives, and if so, what are they and within what timeline?