

**Question for written answer E-003333/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Nils Torvalds (Renew)

Subject: Municipal plans as town and country planning of coastal waters

Article 2 of Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning ('the directive') states that the directive is to apply to marine waters of Member States, but not to coastal waters or parts thereof falling under a Member State's town and country planning, provided that this is communicated in its maritime spatial plans.

In the Province of Åland, under the Province of Åland Water Act (1996:61) [Vattenlag (1996:61) för landskapet Åland], the Åland Government is responsible for the development and adoption of a maritime spatial plan for Åland.

Under Chapter 1 Section 4 of the Province of Åland Planning and Construction Act (2008:102) [Plan- och bygglag (2008:102) för landskapet Åland], each of Åland's municipalities is required to have 'an up-to-date municipal plan that covers the whole of the municipality'. Such a municipal plan must, among other things, 'provide guidance for decisions on the use of land and waters', including coastal waters.

1. Does the Commission take the view that the rule requiring Åland's municipalities to have master plans constitutes town and country planning for parts of the coastal waters as referred to in the directive, and that the directive should therefore not apply to those coastal waters for the use of which the municipalities are required to provide guidance through their master plans?
2. Does the Commission consider that such municipal master plans for coastal waters must satisfy certain criteria in order to be considered to constitute town and country planning under the directive?