

**Question for written answer E-000640/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Support for developing seaweed cultivation in the EU

A recently published report by the coalition Seaweed for Europe considers that a well drawn-up policy promoting information on seaweed and its consumption could create the right conditions to produce, using crop technology, enough seaweed to satisfy a market that, in a decade, could provide jobs for 115 000 people living in coastal communities. Consumption of seaweed has tripled in the past two decades, although most of this growth has been in Asia. The market is now worth EUR 11.3 billion. Almost 70 % of seaweed in Asia is used for human consumption or the production of food supplements, with a great majority of the crop raised at sustainable seaweed farms. In Europe, on the other hand, development of the seaweed industry has stagnated, even though experience in Asia shows that a crop of this kind can provide an interesting alternative diversifying income sources for local coastal communities.

1. Does the Commission agree with these estimates?
2. Are there research programmes or experiments oriented towards promoting this industry in EU waters?
3. Do impact studies confirm that undertakings such as this comply with the objectives of the European Green Deal?