

**Question for written answer E-002506/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: International agreement to prevent marine plastic litter

The governments of Germany, Ecuador, Ghana and Vietnam are jointly organising a ministerial conference in a bid to agree on a 'legal instrument' for a concerted approach to the global challenge of marine pollution especially by plastics¹.

The conference, to be held in September 2021, will serve as a platform for informal consultations ahead of the second round of the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), acting on the terms of reference agreed at the third and fourth assemblies regarding measures to combat marine pollution and microplastics.

1. Is the Commission supporting the adoption of an international agreement to combat marine pollution by plastics?
2. At the same time, the Joint Communication entitled 'A new EU-US agenda for global change'² indicates that a global agreement on plastics at sea is urgently needed and that the EU will call on the US to support this endeavour before the next UNEA. Has the Commission discussed with the new Biden administration the need for the coordinated adoption of an international agreement to prevent marine pollution by plastics?

¹ <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/upcoming-international-ministerial-conference-to-build-a-global-vision-to-tackle-marine-litter-and-p-1/>

² JOIN(2020) 0022