

**Question for written answer E-004054/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Pollution from oil slick in the Mediterranean

The oil slick created by a fuel spill at a power station in the Syrian city of Baniyas is endangering the unique Mediterranean ecosystem, which is already suffering badly from contamination, posing a particular threat to the shores of Cyprus and Greece, both EU Member States. In the meantime, footage from the Sentinel 1 satellite constellation shows the oil slick spreading over an area of around 1 000 km². Such events only serve to aggravate the situation facing the Mediterranean, endangering the health of millions of people along its coasts, threatening rare ecosystems and species and impacting decisively on sectors such as fisheries and tourism.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say whether it has carried out an assessment of the risks and possible consequences of the oil slick and the pollution caused by oil spills in the Mediterranean Sea in general? What measures has it taken or does it plan to take to prevent coastal pollution and the destruction of ecosystems?
2. Has an EMSA contingency plan been drawn up to deal with pollution from third countries posing a threat to Member States and, if so, does it require modification?