

**Question for written answer E-005568/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Environmental DNA (eDNA): a tool to study the effects of climate change on marine species

The United Nations has set up the eDNA Expeditions project for 2022 and 2023 to assess how vulnerable marine biodiversity is to climate change.

The UN wants to sequence DNA fragments that are characteristic of particular species to know whether those species are present in the environment. Environmental DNA sampling may provide a long-awaited innovative and affordable solution to better understanding marine ecosystems, how they are made up and behave, and how to start harvesting ocean resources in the most sustainable way.

The project will focus on endangered species on the red list and on Unesco's 50 Marine World Heritage sites. The data will then be published on the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS).

Using environmental DNA to monitor the oceans and gather data is only in its infancy. Nevertheless, does the Commission plan to join this programme to improve marine biodiversity? If it does, could it provide details on the procedure involved?