

**Question for written answer E-000909/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Emmanuel Maurel** (The Left)

Subject: Marine pollution in the depths of Mediterranean

The Mediterranean is a jewel in the crown of the world's natural heritage, but one that is now threatened by pollution and biodiversity loss.

Last June, the Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (Ifremer) published the findings of an exploration mission conducted in 2018 by scientists from France, Italy and Monaco.

Their work revealed that pollution of the marine environment by plastic has spread even to the deepest parts of the Mediterranean's seabed, 2 200 metres down, which is too deep for its treatment or extraction. This state of affairs has been found everywhere in the Mediterranean, on both the European and North African sides.

To combat this problem and protect the Mediterranean ecosystem, Ifremer recommends implementing prevention and planning policies based on voluntary action in urban areas around the Mediterranean's coasts.

Because of the nature and scale of these measures they should be included in a relaunch of the southern neighbourhood policy and the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

1. How will the Commission integrate these recommendations, and the necessary investment, into its environment policy?
2. How does the Commission plan to involve the EU's partners on the southern Mediterranean coast in the design and implementation of these actions?