

**Question for written answer E-003566/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Worrying spread of the blue crab in Mediterranean waters

Certain invasive species can be problematic, particularly marine species, given the threat they pose to biodiversity. The blue crab is one such example, as its spread is preventing fishermen from working. Native to the coasts of the United States and Brazil, these insatiable, aggressive crabs eat everything in their path: fish, eels, mussels, oysters, even ducklings. They can travel up to 15 km in one day.

These crabs have invaded the Étang de Canet (a lagoon not far from Saint-Cyprien in France) and devoured fish stocks, causing the eel fishermen in the area to be laid off. The fishermen are now having to catch these blue crabs in exchange for a payment.

This situation is catastrophic for many ecosystems and for the fishermen themselves as it threatens their livelihoods. To tackle this problem, the French National Centre for Scientific Research is working on a strategy to limit the spread of the blue crab.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission considering any solidarity mechanism for people in the fishing industry who have been hit hard by this situation?
2. Does the Commission intend to evaluate the risk this crab poses to biodiversity?

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