

**Question for written answer E-003898/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Cleaning up the seas

Eighty per cent of the eight million tonnes of plastic discharged into the sea every year comes from around 1 000 rivers. Once in the ocean, this disintegrates into microplastics which accumulate in gyres.

The ingestion of these microplastics leads to abnormally high mortality rates among marine fauna, including fish, plankton and marine mammals. What is more, they ultimately end up in the bodies of humans, who eat numerous marine species.

The commendable efforts of the EU and the Member States to minimise the use of plastic products should be praised. However, such policies do not reduce the amount of pollution that has already built up, or the plastic waste discharged by other countries.

Boyan Slat's organisation 'The Ocean Cleanup' manufactures systems designed to collect plastics which would otherwise pollute the oceans. They manufacture two types of collection systems:

- stationary systems for rivers, made up of nets connected to a boat that act as a funnel, allowing water and animals to pass through, while trapping rubbish;
- mobile systems for use in the open ocean, which work on the same principle.

To install these systems on the 1 000 rivers which discharge the majority of plastic waste into the sea, The Ocean Cleanup needs funding.

Does the Commission intend to fund this project?

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