Question for written answer E-001714/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Protecting coral reefs against global warming

According to experts from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, if nothing is done to tackle global warming, tropical coral reefs will have disappeared by 2050.

Researchers from the Centre national de la recherche scientifique, the Institut de recherche pour le développement and the University of New Caledonia are using genetics in an attempt to identify the types of coral that are best able to withstand high temperatures.

Their work aims to locate areas in which coral reefs would be less vulnerable. These areas could become marine protected areas in which human activities would be regulated, meaning that they could serve as reservoirs and facilitate the recolonisation of degraded areas.

We also need to protect the ecosystems linked to coral reefs, which play a key role in combating the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

In early 2022, scientists discovered a healthy reef of giant corals off the coast of Tahiti.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, this reef is three kilometres long, between 30 and 65 metres wide and between 35 and 70 metres deep (deep waters).

Will the Commission take these deep-sea areas into account when establishing which areas will become marine protected?

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