Question for written answer E-002121/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Stars will be ‘invisible’ in 20 years’ time owing to light pollution

According to scientists, the increasing use of light-emitting diodes (LED) and other forms of lighting are now brightening the night sky at a dramatic rate. The indiscriminate use of artificial external lighting, street lighting, illuminated advertising and floodlit buildings is now perceptibly obscuring our view of the stars.

In 2016, astronomers discovered that the Milky Way was no longer visible to a third of humanity. Since then, light pollution has worsened considerably, to the point that, at its current rate, most of the constellations will be invisible 20 years from now.

Research by physicist Christopher Kyba of the German Centre for Geosciences has revealed that light pollution is now causing the night sky to brighten at a rate of around 10% a year, an increase that threatens to obliterate the sight of all but the most brilliant stars in a generation.

With the problem being that light pollution is not perceived by the public as a threat, and in view of the above data:

What measures does the Commission propose to adopt to reduce light pollution?

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