

**Question for written answer E-002240/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Spread and impact of the blue crab on marine biodiversity and aquaculture in the Mediterranean basin

The spread in recent years of the blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*), an alien species of Atlantic and North American origin, is having a huge impact on the biodiversity of the Mediterranean, especially along the Adriatic coast. The species, which is more aggressive and resilient than native crabs, reproduces at a very high rate and is driving the disappearance of many endemic species, including bivalve molluscs, on which it feeds. In particular, the populations of various species of clams, which are a very important resource for Italian fisheries and aquaculture, are disappearing from the seabed. The species is not currently included in the list of invasive alien species of Union concern.

In light of the above, can the Commission state:

1. whether it intends to take urgent action to add the blue crab (*C. sapidus*) to the list of alien species of Union concern;
2. whether it has any useful guidance for combating the blue crab (*C. Sapidus*) species, with particular reference to the Mediterranean basin and the Adriatic Sea.

Submitted: 18.7.2023