

**Question for written answer E-002317/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ville Niinistö (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Loss of mangrove forests owing to shrimp farming

Mangrove forests are vital ecosystems that offer numerous marine species ecological services, including carbon sequestration, coastal protection and habitat for a wide variety of flora and fauna. They support food supply by acting as important fish spawning areas, provide livelihoods for people in coastal areas and protect coasts from erosion, tsunamis and rising sea levels.

The expansion of farmed black tiger shrimp (tiger prawn) and pacific white shrimp (king prawn) aquaculture destroys and degrades these valuable ecosystems. Human activity, particularly shrimp farming, accelerates mangrove loss. Europe is the second-largest market for seafood imports of species such as farmed black tiger shrimp and pacific white shrimp. Europe imports these shrimps mostly from South America (Ecuador, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Peru and Honduras) and Asia (Vietnam, India and Indonesia).

Mangrove forest ecosystems are increasingly subject to degradation and conversion as a result of commodity production for the Union market.

1. Does the Commission have plans to include farmed shrimps, which drive the degradation and loss of mangrove forests, in the revision of the Regulation on deforestation-free products¹?
2. How will the Commission ensure that future EU trade agreements include comprehensive safeguards to protect climate and nature, and will not act as drivers of biodiversity loss such as the degradation of mangrove forests?

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¹ Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023 on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010, OJ L 150, 9.6.2023, p. 206.