

**Question for written answer E-000258/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Plastic pellet pollution in the western Mediterranean Sea

On 16 October 2023 the Commission released its proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution¹.

In the western Mediterranean Sea, along the shoreline of Tarragona (Catalonia), pellet pollution has been denounced by non-governmental organisations and local authorities since 2018. In February 2019, a report by the non-governmental organisation Good Karma warned that there could be up to 90 million pellets on La Pineda² beach, a Natura 2000 site. Thirteen industries are under investigation for plastic pellet losses, which not only accumulate on the coastline but also drift out to the sea, even reaching the Balearic Islands and the Ebro Delta, another Natura 2000 site.

However, the pellets are clearly having an international impact. It has been proven that the pellet pollution has reached open sea and other countries' coastlines.

In the light of the above mentioned facts:

1. Will the Commission take measures to assess the magnitude of microplastic and pellet pollution in the Mediterranean basin?
2. Besides the proposal for a regulation, has the Commission taken any other measure to tackle the microplastic marine pollution in the Mediterranean Sea, especially in marine protected areas, as well as in Natura 2000 sites?

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¹ COM(2023)0645.

² <https://goodkarmaprojects.org/mediterraneamente-plastico-2/?lang=en>;
<https://goodkarmaprojects.org/2024/01/10/contaminacion-por-pellets-de-plastico/>.