

**Question for oral answer O-000062/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 136

Catherine Chabaud

on behalf of the Renew Group

Subject: Protecting marine biodiversity in Antarctica

In her State of the Union address, President Von der Leyen said that the Commission will use its diplomatic strength and economic clout to designate maritime protected areas in Antarctica. Negotiations are currently under way within the framework of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) on the designation of two large marine protected areas in the Southern Ocean (Antarctica): in East Antarctica (with France and Australia) and in the Weddell Sea (with Germany and Norway). So far, these attempts have been blocked by China and Russia on the ground that fishing activities take place in those areas. The EU and the eight Member States that are members of the CCAMLR all support the establishment of the marine protected areas.

Bearing in mind that the Antarctic Ocean is essential for regulating the climate and is home to an extremely rich and diverse biodiversity, what diplomatic actions does the Commission intend to take and how will it ensure that the EU's commitments to protect marine biodiversity are fulfilled within the framework of the CCAMLR?

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Lapses: 31/12/2020