

**Question for written answer P-012879/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Evaluation of the European Maritime Day

In 2007 the EU established a 'European Maritime Day' to be held on 20 May each year with the view to raising awareness of the EU's maritime history and culture, and to increase visibility of the importance of maritime activities and challenges.

Setting aside a special day each year to mark the importance of the oceans and seas constitutes an initiative that from the first received broad support within the EU. As Parliament is where the initiative for establishing the European Maritime Day started, it is concerned about the effectiveness of this annual event.

1. Who is mainly responsible for organising the European Maritime Day in different Member States?
2. In the framework of promoting contacts with and between maritime stakeholders, how are citizens and stakeholders encouraged actively to participate in and contribute to a fruitful dialogue about the challenges they face? Which body is responsible for the coordination of these events?
3. The main aim of the European Maritime Day, as described in the Joint Tripartite Declaration and the message addressed to the European people, is to celebrate annually the progress made in the sector of maritime policy. What conclusions and evaluations could be drawn with regard to the overall aims of the European Maritime Day and in which way are they utilised?
4. What are the main goals and programmes for the European Maritime Days in Bremen in 2014 and in Piraeus-Athens in 2015?