

**Question for written answer E-015557/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sylvie Goddyn (ENF)**

Subject: Retrieval of 'ghost nets' from Europe's coasts

The Antibes Golfe-Juan *prud'homie des pêches* (fishermen's professional association), the Alpes-Maritimes Fisheries Committee and the French Protected Marine Areas Agency (AAMP) are experimenting with the retrieval of 'ghost nets' lost by fishermen off the Côte d'Azur. Seven sites have been identified by fishermen to enable salvage work by professional divers to begin.

The budget for this operation, which is at present being carried out on only two sites, is EUR 13 500, of which EUR 8 000 is borne by the AAMP and EUR 5 500 by the Antibes *prud'homie*.

Does the Commission have any plans, in partnership with the Member States, for action to catalogue areas where ghost nets are accumulating and create the appropriate commercial channels for these nets to be recycled?

Does it plan to ask the Member States to draw on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to retrieve ghost nets, as well as the reefs of submerged tyres that are polluting Europe's coasts?