

**Question for written answer E-014428/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Claudia Tapardel (S&D)**

Subject: The need for a comprehensive EU strategy for the Black Sea Region

The Black Sea is bordered by six countries, among which are two Member States, Bulgaria and Romania. The Black Sea Region, which is of a strategic importance, faces numerous infrastructure challenges, including challenges of a maritime and marine nature that require enhanced cooperation between all coastal states.

Parliament has adopted two resolutions to date calling for the further development of the Black Sea Region. Unfortunately, all the ongoing initiatives to identify the challenges we face in the region are organised independently of each other.

Similar regions such as the Adriatic and the Ionian Seas Region benefit from an EU strategy that promotes a holistic policy approach for these regions.

A popular argument for the lack of progress on a comprehensive EU strategy for the Black Sea Region is the fact that it is bordered by only two Member States. And yet its geographical position proves the futility of this argument: the Black Sea Region serves as a connection and trade hub with third-countries of major importance for the economic development of the EU and for the geopolitical stability in the region.

Can the Commission briefly provide an update on the development of a comprehensive strategy for the Black Sea Region?