

**Question for written answer E-000785/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)

Subject: Managing the spread of the silver-cheeked toadfish in the Mediterranean

Silver-cheeked toadfish (*Lagocephalus sceleratus*) came to the Mediterranean as a result of human activities such as shipping, the transportation of marine species and their introduction into aquariums and as food. Their population has increased exponentially in areas where there are no natural predators. The spread of silver-cheeked toadfish is threatening biodiversity because they compete with other species for food and space and consume large quantities of organic matter.

Silver-cheeked toadfish contain tetrodotoxin, a toxic substance found in their skin and internal organs. This substance can cause serious poisoning and even death if it is ingested or if it enters the body through a wound. Limiting the silver-cheeked toadfish population requires coordinated actions, such as specific fishing techniques, monitoring marine transportation and aquariums, as well as strict regulations on the management of imported species.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What steps are being taken for the effective management and use of EU funds to reduce silver-cheeked toadfish numbers?
2. How can funding from the LIFE fund be boosted in order to monitor and manage the silver-cheeked toadfish population in the Mediterranean?

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