

**Question for written answer E-003696/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Jonas Sjöstedt (The Left)

Subject: Discharge of untreated waste water into the Baltic Sea

The Baltic Sea is a particularly sensitive sea area under international and EU rules, including the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) and the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU), which aim to protect and conserve marine ecosystems. Despite this, however, amendments to Swedish legislation made on 1 July 2025 still allow the discharge of untreated waste water from ships into the Baltic Sea, posing a serious risk to both the environment and public health. At the same time, the Baltic Sea is one of the most polluted seas in the world, making the need for protective measures even more urgent. Finland has introduced stricter rules than Sweden.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. Does the Commission take the view that strengthening Sweden's current rules on waste water discharges from ships into the Baltic Sea would help provide better protection for the ecosystem and improve compliance with the EU's marine directives?
2. Does the Commission take the view that Finland's stricter rules provide better protection for the Baltic Sea ecosystem and marine life than Sweden's rules do?
3. Does the Commission intend to encourage Member States to coordinate their rules and secure a ban on the discharge of untreated waste water into the Baltic Sea?

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