

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004186/25
to the Commission
Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE), Adrián Vázquez Lázara (PPE)
(23 October 2025)**

Subject: Radioactive waste under EU ocean policy

In relation to our Question E-002601/2025 ⁽¹⁾, and irrespective of the competences that the Euratom Treaty grants to the Commission, it is clear that the Commission does have competences in ocean management, as shown in the recent Ocean Pact and Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) which the EU is party to.

The Pact's priorities include advancing ocean research and knowledge, enhancing maritime security and defence and strengthening ocean diplomacy. In addition, it announces an 'ambitious EU ocean observation initiative' — which also covers the deep sea. Among other things, this initiative will include observation and mapping campaigns for knowledge gaps.

Given the fact that drums containing radioactive waste are causing concern among populations in Atlantic coastal regions:

1. Is the Commission considering including the areas in which there are drums in the ocean observation initiative?
2. In the new context created with the Pact and the Agreement, is the Commission considering launching an initiative, in collaboration with Member States that are responsible for or affected by the dumping of drums, to monitor these and also to study possible measures to neutralise the risks of spillages?

Submitted: 23.10.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(5 December 2025)**

The European Ocean Observation Initiative will take the form of a communication from the Commission, which aims to address i.a. the strategic autonomy of the European Union regarding the Global Ocean Observing System, development of innovative Ocean Observation technologies and market opportunities, the better coordination of the European marine knowledge assets and the operationalisation of the European Digital Twin Ocean.

Additionally, through the Ocean Act, the Commission aims to address issues relevant to the coordination and governance of Ocean Observation in the Member States, through the creation of a governing structure for the European Ocean Observing System.

These actions do not have a geographical dimension, and the Member States will be able to determine what areas they are observing. Member States also have to consider radionuclides in their marine strategies under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive ⁽¹⁾.

While this issue mentioned by the Honourable Members will not be covered specifically under the Ocean Observation Initiative, radionuclide monitoring can already be conducted by Member States.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-002601_EN.html
¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3AA02008L0056-20170607>.