

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002636/26
to the Commission
Sofie Eriksson (S&D), Hélène Fritzton (S&D)
(25 June 2026)**

Subject: The Baltic Sea as an urgent priority in the European Ocean Pact, one year after the UN Ocean Conference

The Baltic Sea is facing not just one challenge, but several interconnected ones: industrial fishing, climate change and nutrient pollution, as well as growing security threats linked to the Russian shadow fleet, unsafe shipping and violations of maritime law.

The reality of this threat is illustrated by recent incidents off the coast of Skåne in southern Sweden. Swedish authorities have boarded several vessels suspected of belonging to the shadow fleet, and two ships remain anchored outside Trelleborg. The seafarers on board — numbering in the dozens — are in acute need of basic assistance, including food and water.

At the same time, critical underwater infrastructure is increasingly exposed to hybrid threats, cyber risks and sabotage, while unexploded ordnance on the seabed continues to threaten ecosystems and infrastructure.

In the European Ocean Pact, the Commission commits to strengthening maritime surveillance, coast guard cooperation, the protection of critical infrastructure, and action to address unexploded ordnance.

The question is: what actions have already been taken, and how will the Commission ensure that these commitments are turned into concrete action in the Baltic Sea, with Member States receiving the coordination and technology needed to respond to these multiple threats together?

Submitted: 25.6.2026

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(13 August 2026)**

The Commission is consulting Member States and stakeholders in view of preparing an EU Strategy for the safe remediation of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in European Seas.

This initiative builds on the results of EU-funded projects, including the ongoing Pilot Project ‘CAMMera’ ⁽¹⁾ and ‘MMine-Sweeper’ ⁽²⁾, funded by the European Union.

These projects are contributing to advancing knowledge, mapping, risk assessment, testing technologies and sharing best practices for safe management of UXO.

Moreover, the EU funds several initiatives on innovation in maritime security surveillance technologies, such as ongoing projects ‘SEAGUARD’ ⁽³⁾, ‘BorderForce’ ⁽⁴⁾, MARCONNECT ⁽⁵⁾ and ‘CROSSMARE’ ⁽⁶⁾.

On 23 June 2026, the Commission approved two proposals by Member States setting up Regional Cable Hubs ⁽⁷⁾ in the Baltic and Mediterranean.

The Baltic Sea hub received EUR 2.5 million to reinforce national and cross-border operation centres, enhance surveillance, information-sharing, and response capabilities to protect critical maritime infrastructure.

Future calls for regional cable hubs will support the establishment of new hubs, reinforce those already launched, and ensure a swift and effective response in emergency situations.

On 3 July, the Commission proposed ⁽⁸⁾ five European Defences Projects of Common Interest (EDPCI) for Council approval. Of these, the ‘Integrated Maritime and Seabed Defence’ project focuses on protecting and monitoring the maritime domain and seabed infrastructure, while ‘Drone and Counter-Drone European Resolve’ will enhance aerial surveillance and protection against unmanned threats.

⁽¹⁾ <https://cammera-munition.eu/>.

⁽²⁾ <https://mminesweeper-munition.eu/>.

⁽³⁾ <https://theseaguardproject.eu/>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://borderforce-horizon.eu/>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://marconnect-project.eu/>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://crossmare-project.eu/>.

⁽⁷⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_1429.

⁽⁸⁾ <https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2026-07/Proposal-for-a-Council-Implementing-Decision-on-the-establishment-of-european-Projects-of-Common-Interest.pdf>.