

**Question for written answer E-014441/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Salvatore Domenico Pogliese (PPE) and Remo Sernagiotto (ECR)**

Subject: Excessive payments under fisheries partnership agreements

Over the years, the European Economic Community has signed various international fisheries agreements on the basis of the 'pay, fish and go' principle. In 2002, the EU signed fisheries partnership agreements under which financial contributions are paid to the partner countries. There are two categories of contribution: EEZ access fees and sectoral financial support. Decisions concerning the financing and management of these funds are taken jointly by the partner country and the EU. A report by the European Court of Auditors, published on 20 October 2015, claims that the real costs paid by the EU to partner countries are often higher than the levels of financing agreed. The Court maintains that in the worst case scenario detected during its investigation, the EU paid 600% more than it should have done. These payment errors are due to erroneous calculations based on cost estimates that are out of touch with reality.

In the light of the above, can the Commission state:

1. What follow-up it intends to give to the report published by the European Court of Auditors?
2. Whether it plans to renegotiate the fisheries partnership agreements and revise the amounts paid for fishing rights to partner countries?