

**Question for written answer E-014943/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Clara Eugenia Aguilera García (S&D)**

Subject: Wrapping and packaging of fishery products

The interpretation of DG SANCO and FVO of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 on hygiene rules for foodstuffs of animal origin (Section VIII, Chapter VI - 'Wrapping and packaging of fishery products') is proving extremely problematic as it considers transporting fish in wooden containers to be against EU rules, regardless of how hygienic they are.

In May 2015, the Spanish Agency for Consumer Affairs, Food Safety and Nutrition (AECOSAN) asked DG SANCO to reconsider its position on the basis of research conducted by Dr José Juan Rodríguez Jerez of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, an expert in microbiological analysis of surfaces and evaluation of biofilms, who found that wood affects neither the quality nor safety of fish, and demonstrates antimicrobial properties.

Given that the Commission's current position is seriously damaging to free competition between wood and other materials used for packaging fish, and that – as shown in Mr Dalli's answer of 30 March 2011 on behalf of the Commission to written question E-000434/2011 – it has failed to provide any scientific evidence or statistical analysis of official controls, can the Commission say how far advanced its departments' evaluation is?