

Question for written answer E-015832/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Rolandas Paksas (EFDD)

Subject: Regulation No 1380/2013 on the common fisheries policy

The majority of Lithuanian fishermen are not being given sufficient fishing opportunities for fishing vessels to be profitable. Meanwhile, companies which destroy the Baltic seabed and habitats by using trawl nets are benefiting from the largest quotas. Two fishing companies, which control approximately 33% of Lithuania's fishing opportunities, receive around 76% of the fishing quotas for Lithuanian sprat and herring. The remaining companies, which represent 67% of capacity, receive barely 19% of quotas, with the remaining 5% of quotas being sold at auction. Therefore, only two companies and the crews of their two boats are receiving economic benefits from fishing in Lithuania. Other companies and their crews are on the verge of dying out, as they are receiving fewer quotas or none at all. When allocating quotas, no account is taken of provisions concerning the impact of fishing on the environment, and there is no economic, social or employment benefit.

1. Have reports been submitted to the Commission on striking a balance between Lithuania's fishing capacity and its fishing opportunities? Would the failure to provide such reports not constitute a violation of the provisions of Article 22 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council?
2. What measures does the Commission intend to take in order to strike a balance between Lithuania's fishing capacity and its fishing opportunities, to ensure the profitability of the fishing fleets, and to ensure the long-term environmentally sustainable use of natural resources?
3. When allocating fishing opportunities (quotas), are transparent and objective criteria – including environmental, social and economic criteria – being properly implemented?