

**Question for written answer E-015188/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Norbert Erdős (PPE)

Subject: Support for freshwater closed-system aquaculture

As an economic integration organisation, the European Union is a full member of several scientific committees that have been established to protect certain fish stocks. The proposals of these committees are regularly adopted by the EU and incorporated into Union law. These regulations make it clear that the European Union is compelled to put adequate limits on deep-sea fishing in order to maintain the marine fish stocks. The quantity of exploitable deep-sea fish is therefore being constantly and considerably reduced. Hence, the EU's common fisheries policy must devote much more attention to sustainable fish production – aquaculture – and especially to freshwater fish farming.

A significant part of the fishponds in Hungary lie within Natura 2000 areas. These fish farms present absolutely no danger to the natural assets of these areas. In many cases, in fact, the individual wetland communities we have created or retained are due to these very closed-system fishponds. Consequently, freshwater aquaculture must be given priority and the greatest possible EU support. This area must also be freed from the unduly strict and unnecessary sustainability regulations that are only justified in the case of marine aquaculture.

1. What incentives and measures is the Commission planning to introduce in order to promote closed-system freshwater fish farms?
2. How is the Commission planning to fully separate marine and freshwater aquaculture?
3. What steps is the Commission planning to take to simplify the EU common fisheries policy?