

Question for written answer E-014439/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Louis Michel (ALDE)

Subject: Shark finning

Shark populations play a crucial role in maintaining the balance of marine ecosystems, and shark tourism activities, such as diving with sharks, are an important source of income for many communities.

Shark finning – a highly controversial practice which involves cutting off the fins and throwing the sharks back into the sea while they are still alive – is a serious problem that is adding to the overexploitation of shark populations, many of which are now facing extinction.

The EU has banned shark finning and is committed to securing a worldwide ban. Banning the landing of shark fins that have been separated from the rest of the body is recognised as the best way to combat shark finning.

In the light of the recent failure of negotiations on the adoption of this approach in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO), what specific steps does the Commission intend to take to promote a shark-finning ban and to make securing a ban an objective for all regional fisheries management organisations?

How is this issue being addressed in fisheries agreements with non-EU countries?