

Question for written answer E-014906/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Francesc Gambús (PPE)

Subject: Situation with regard to fishing in the Western Mediterranean

On 19 November 2015 it was announced that Spain would be receiving EUR 1 600 million from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. In total, EUR 352 million will be allocated to fisheries. Despite this, however, there is a problem with catches in the area off the coast of Tarragona. In 1999, some 8 million kilos of sardine were registered as having been caught off the coast of the city of Tarragona alone. Now that figure has dropped to 242 000 kilos per year across all the counties in the province of Tarragona. The reason behind the decline in catches (pollution, lower levels of plankton, etc.) remains unknown.

1. Does the Commission have any studies on the decline in oily fish stocks in the Western Mediterranean, and specifically off the coasts of Spain?
2. What projects will the EU be funding under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund to improve the situation with regard to fishing in the Western Mediterranean area?
3. What steps is the Commission considering taking within its remit to reverse the decline in oily fish stocks in the Western Mediterranean?