

**Question for written answer E-015554/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Sylvie Goddyn (ENF)**

Subject:     Conserving fish stocks of countries with which we have fishing agreements

The fisheries agreement between the EU and Mauritania was signed on 16 November 2015 for four years.

Under this agreement European vessels may catch 281 500 tonnes of fish per year, in return for the payment of EUR 59 million per year to Mauritania, EUR 4 million of it for sector-specific policies, i.e. improving fisheries governance and supporting sustainable fishing.

However, Mauritania has allowed China to fish for octopus in its waters. This exemption is problematic. The fact that our fisheries agreements are not exclusive, i.e. that third countries are entitled to fish in the same waters, makes it harder to monitor fish stocks and combat illegal fishing, which is often concealed behind legal agreements.

1. To combat this illegal fishing, is the Commission carrying out an exchange of information on third countries' fleets that also operate in Mauritanian waters, or does it propose to do so, in order to facilitate the monitoring of Mauritania's waters?
2. More widely, does it propose to implement such an exchange of information with all the third countries with which we have fisheries agreements?