

**Question for written answer E-015219/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: The ban on finning

At the most recent meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in Malta from 10-17 November 2015, criticism was expressed once again about the EU's initiative for all contracting parties to the ICCAT to adopt the EU's fins-attached policy, with the comparative disadvantage it brings for the European fleet.

It will be extremely difficult to convince all the other countries adopt the fins-attached policy – indeed, many attempts to do so have already been made. With that in mind:

1. What solutions is the Commission intending to propose to ensure that the EU fisheries industry does not continue to suffer as a result of competition from non-EU fleets that are not subject to the ban on finning?
2. When is the Commission intending to report to Parliament on the operation of that rule, pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1185/2003, as amended by Regulation (EU) No 605/2013?
3. On the basis of its reports, and given the current economic climate and what happened at the meeting in Malta, is the Commission intending to amend Regulation (EU) No 605/2013 banning the removal of sharks' fins on board EU vessels to improve its effectiveness without undermining shark protection?