

**Question for written answer E-015954/2015
to the Council**
Rule 130
Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE)

Subject: Setting of fisheries TACs for 2016

According to recent reports in the media, the Council has once again assigned the total allowable catches (TACs) for fisheries in a wholly obscurantist manner. The changes introduced to the initial proposal, with volumes of increases or cuts to quotas for some species reaching up to 50 % of the quota, do not appear to be compatible with decisions adopted on the basis of scientific data concerning the status of biomass in the sea. The Council is thus preventing the sector from being able to plan its activity in the medium term, devaluing oceanographic work and the principle of sustainability, legitimising obscurantism as a form of action, and refusing to accept that the Treaty of Lisbon gives other EU institutions, such as the Parliament, codecision powers in this regard.

1. When is the Council planning to stop this obscurantist behaviour that goes against the corresponding provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon?
2. Does the Council feel it is explicable for there to be variations of up to 50 % in the decisions that were initially announced regarding TACs with objective and scientific mechanisms for setting quotas?
3. What reasons are there to justify maintaining this system as opposed to that of multiannual plans for species management?