

**Question for written answer E-005811/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: State of negotiations on the new fishing protocol with Mauritania

The fishing protocol between the EU and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania is the leading fisheries agreement between the EU and a third country. Negotiations to renew it began on 5 May 2014 and have now gone through several rounds.

Given that the existing fishing protocol with Mauritania is due to expire at the end of this month, July 2014, and that this will reduce the EU's fishing opportunities in Mauritanian waters, with particular impact on the cephalopod fleet, which will be denied access to Mauritanian waters for the first time since 1987:

- does the Commission see it as a priority of the negotiations to restore the cephalopod sector as one of the fishing segments included in the new protocol?
- what is the state of negotiations on this issue?

In view of the imminent expiry of the current protocol and bearing in mind that a halt in activities would be highly prejudicial to the European fleet, will steps be taken to prevent this happening?