

Question for written answer E-006455/2014
to the Commission
Rule 130
Olaf Stuger (NI)

Subject: Fishermen's anger with Commissioner

Dutch and European fishermen are livid at the statements by the Greek Commissioner Maria Damanaki (Fisheries). She advised¹ against buying fish caught with 'bottom-trawling' [Dutch: *bodemberoerende*] fishing techniques, which are used by Dutch fishermen among others. This is ridiculous advice, because 'bottom-trawling' fishing technology is completely legal, including under EU law.

If Damanaki's advice is followed, fish species such as sole and plaice will no longer be allowed to appear on the menu. These species are often caught with nets that are dragged over the sea bed, a technique known as 'bottom trawling' or 'dragging' [Dutch: *boomkorvisserij*].

1. Can the Commissioner explain why she is wilfully trying to harm the Dutch fishing industry with her statements, in spite of the fact that 'bottom-trawling' techniques are normally permitted (including under EU law)? I should be glad of a detailed answer.
2. Will the Commissioner personally pay compensation for all demonstrable economic damage that Dutch fishermen are suffering or have suffered as a result of her statements?
3. Is the Commissioner prepared to withdraw her statements?

¹ <http://blogs.ec.europa.eu/damanaki/pocket-guide-to-your-beach-holidays/>