

**Question for written answer E-007075/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Closure of this season's sardine fishery in areas VIIIc and IXa

Last week, the Spanish and Portuguese authorities decided to close the whole sardine fishery in areas VIIIc and IXa, apparently because the fleet had reached the catch limit agreed by the two countries.

This decision took the sector by surprise. The authorities had not given any indication that the limit was about to be reached, since the fleet is not kept informed of the extent to which the quota is being used up.

This closure provides particular cause for concern because catches of this species were low all through the summer, giving rise to serious unease, anxiety and uncertainty among the fishermen affected.

Can the Commission say whether it has been approached by Spain and Portugal regarding the possibility of introducing compensatory aid for vessels and crews following the closure of this season's fishery? Might it be included in the management plans in force in the areas affected? What types of aid could be used to remedy this lack of protection?