

**Question for written answer E-007606/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: External dimension of the CFP

The fisheries agreements with third countries are faced with serious difficulties. This is a fundamental issue for the fishing industry in many Member States and for the food supply chain in the EU.

There are no fisheries protocols in place with Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Tanzania, Kenya, Liberia, Micronesia, the Solomon Islands or the Cook Islands. In just four months, protocols will expire with Madagascar, Mozambique and Mauritania, this latter being the most important protocol of its type in the EU. We are therefore looking at protocols not being in place with more than half of the States with which the EU has fisheries agreements.

The agreement with Mauritania, the farthest-reaching agreement, is particularly important for my region, Galicia, whose cephalopod fleet has now been denied access to Mauritanian waters even though the financial contribution has been increased while overall fishing opportunities have been reduced. Furthermore, although the EU has recently reached an agreement with Morocco, the European fleet is having difficulties carrying out its normal activity in this area.

I would like to know the Commission's position on fisheries protocols which are currently in force but are due to expire soon, fisheries agreements for which no protocols are in force and the possibility of exploring new fishing grounds in third countries. In particular, is the Commission supporting the European cephalopod fleet returning to Mauritanian fishing grounds?