

**Question for written answer E-007621/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**José Blanco López (S&D)**

Subject: Galician 'xeito' and the proposal to ban drift-nets

Last week Parliament's Committee on Fisheries began its work on the Commission proposal, submitted on 14 May 2014, for a regulation laying down a prohibition on driftnet fisheries, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 850/98, (EC) No 812/2004, (EC) No 2187/2005 and (EC) No 1967/2006 and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 894/97 (COM(2014)0265).

The Commission is proposing that a total ban enter into force on 1 January 2015, too soon, in other words, for the sector to be able to adapt. This is an unsustainable proposal for European fisheries both from the socio-economic point of view, given that there is no factual basis on which to gauge and assess its potential impact, and from an environmental perspective, given that a blanket ban is being proposed, without allowing for the fact that there are sustainable types of drift-net fishing.

Does the Commission realise that some of the traditional drift-net fishing methods employed in Europe are environmentally friendly, the Galician 'xeito' being one example? Has it assessed the socio-economic cost of the ban and its impact on employment in the EU? Should the need arise, will it compensate or restructure the sector affected? If so, how? What would be the cost in social and economic terms, and how many jobs would be lost in Europe?