

**Question for written answer E-009767/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Revision of European legislation on finning

Following on from my question E-008314/2014, given that the ICCAT decided at its last Annual Meeting, in view of the opposition from various quarters, including Japan, China, and South Korea, not to prohibit the international fishing fleet as a whole from employing the practice of shark finning (i.e. cutting off the fins and discarding the rest of the body), competition is being made unfair by the fact that the European longliner fleet is subject to stricter requirements, a fact which further underlines the need for the Commission to revise legislation that is causing the sector to incur losses on a scale matching the inordinate costs involved. In particular, a finning ban could be secured more straightforwardly than under the arrangements in force since the last revision of Council Regulation (EC) No 1185/2003, which imposes an obligation to land sharks with the fins naturally attached to the bodies.

1. Will the Commission revise the current legislation so as to enable the finning ban to be enforced in a way geared more closely to the sector's needs as well as complying with the requirements of international law?
2. How has the fleet been helped to implement this legislation?
3. In view of the unfair competition, is the Commission providing compensation?