

**Question for written answer E-010521/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Ole Christensen (S&D)**

Subject: Discard plans and quota allocation

On 1 January 2016 a landing obligation will enter into force in the North Sea. The landing obligation is initially being introduced on a fishery-by-fishery rather than a species-by-species basis. In practice this means that fishermen who fish for cod are obliged to land all cod, while those fishing for lobster, for example, must land only the cod they have quotas for, and discard the surplus by-catch of cod for which they have no quota.

In the context of quota allocation, the landing obligation means that it is only fishermen specifically targeting cod who receive a quota allocation. In turn this means that those fisheries which catch cod as a by-catch do not have their quota to land cod increased, and thus discard the same quantity of cod as before.

1. Does the Commission acknowledge that the landing obligation would be more effective if it were introduced on a species-by-species basis, so that all cod, for example, had to be landed irrespective of whether it was the species actively being fished or a by-catch?
2. Does the Commission see any problem with introducing, in the discard plans, a ban on discards on a species-by-species basis, so that all cod has to be landed irrespective of whether it is a by-catch or the main catch?