

**Question for written answer E-011161/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**José Blanco López (S&D)**

Subject: Expiry of Fisheries Protocol with Mauritania

The existing EU-Mauritania Fisheries Protocol expired at 23:59 on 15 December 2014. This is a matter that I anticipated in my Question E-005811/2014 and have raised on a number of occasions at meetings of the European Parliament Fisheries Committee in the presence of the European Commission.

Under Article 6(1) of the Agreement with Mauritania, the European fishing fleet cannot fish in Mauritanian waters until a new Protocol has been signed.

1. What is the state of the negotiations and when does the Commission expect to reach a new Protocol?
2. What alternative fishing grounds are being offered to the European fleet that until now has been fishing in Mauritanian waters?
3. How is it intended to compensate the European fleet for the fact that there is no current Protocol?