

**Question for written answer E-000103/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**José Blanco López (S&D)**

Subject: Minimum size of clams in the EU

Some types of clam, such as *Arousa rapotudas* or *Redondela trompudas* in Galicia, grow breadthwise instead of lengthwise, becoming fatter in the shell. They become convex rather than lengthening to the required minimum of 35 mm, and die before reaching that size.

In Italy, the minimum size for *Chamelea gallina* clams is 25 mm, though several scientific studies show that this type of clam reaches sexual maturity at between 13 and 18 mm.

In both cases, studies point to a substrate issue.

Meanwhile, the Italians are cooking bivalves imported from Turkey, where the minimum permitted size is 17 mm. And, in their turn, Italian 25 mm clams are making good the shortfall left by Galician 35 mm ones.

Is the Commission going to reduce the minimum size for these bivalves, particularly the Galician clam, so that producers can sell them once they have reached maturity, as defined by scientific studies?