

**Question for written answer E-000340/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Sustainable semi-driftnet practices on the River Miño

As alerted by the manner of my questions E-007621/2014 and E-008076/2014 on the Proposal for a Regulation banning fishing with drift nets, amending Regulations (EC) 850/98, (EC) 812/2004, (EC) 2187/2005 and (EC) 1967/2006 and repealing Regulation (EC) 894/97 of the Council, which was due to enter into force on 1 January 2015, fishermen on the River Miño on the border between Spain and Portugal have recently expressed their concern about the possible ban on the traditional semi-driftnet practices which they use to catch species such as lamprey, sabalo, salmon, plaice or grey mullet.

The *Asociación de Pescadores del Río Miño* [The Rio Miño Fishermen's Association], which has 120 members, has expressed the view that the proposed Regulation would mean the 'disappearance of fishing on the Miño', where another 200 Galician fishermen operate.

Is the Commission aware of the existence of this traditional environmentally-conscious practice? Has it assessed the socio-economic cost of banning it and the impact on employment? If so, does it anticipate compensating or restructuring the affected sector, and in what way? Does it anticipate excluding the method practised on the River Miño from the future Regulation?