

**Question for written answer E-000887/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Immediate aid for fishermen in Heraklion, Crete, in compensation for the temporary ban on fishing in the Gulf of Heraklion

Because of recent extreme weather events and flooding in Heraklion, Crete, the fixed and movable equipment of the biological wastewater treatment plant of the Heraklion Municipal Water Supply and Sewerage Enterprise was badly damaged and has ceased to function.

In order to protect public health, the competent authorities have responded by temporarily banning fishing for fish and other seafood in the Gulf of Heraklion in an area of up to two nautical miles of the coast.

The economic losses due to the fishing ban amount to EUR 200 a day for each of the total of 60 fishing vessels operating in the area; this translates into losses of more than EUR 12 000 a day for the fishermen of Heraklion who have been reduced to penury by the Memorandum.

At the same time, it has been reported that the Ministry of Rural Development and Food's Special Fund which provides compensation in emergencies has no funds with which to compensate the fishermen of Heraklion, and funds cannot be paid from other reserves of the 2007-2013 Operational Programme for Fisheries, as they have already been earmarked for other actions.

In view of the above, will the Commission say what funds it will make available - and within which timeframe - to address the above emergency and provide the fishermen of Heraklion, Crete, with immediate and full compensation?