

**Question for written answer E-001476/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Aid scheme under the EFF regulation - EU-Mauritania fisheries agreement

The new protocol to the EU-Mauritania Fisheries Partnership Agreement, initialled on 26 July 2012, has expressly excluded cephalopods, the principal matter of interest for the Spanish and Italian fishing fleets, the only ones for which this class of molluscs constituted a fishing opportunity.

The Spanish vessels which were thus barred from the fishery have been able to benefit from the aid scheme provided for in the EFF regulation, that is to say, Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 (Article 21(a)(iii)), the Spanish Government having decided to grant compensation for 12 months to the shipowners and crews unable to work because of the above-mentioned reduction in fishing opportunities.

For the purpose of establishing whether the Italian Government could, if it thought fit, apply the same arrangement to Italian vessels, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Is the Commission, specifically DG MARE, aware of the support that the Spanish Government granted to Spanish vessels by applying Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 (Article 21(a)(iii))?
2. If so, was the support – the lapse of time is sufficient for the expenditure incurred to have been certified by the Commission – considered to be compatible with correct application of the EFF rules or the general rules governing State aid?