

Question for written answer E-001713/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Situation of international fisheries protocols and the case of Mozambique

Fisheries protocols with third-party States are a fundamental element for ensuring the fishing activity of many Member States of the European Union. As I have previously indicated to the Commission, I consider that they are experiencing a serious decline.

Negotiations with Mozambique were suspended last September after only two rounds, and so on 31 January this Protocol will expire, and for the time being there is no new protocol allowing EU vessels to remain in the waters of Mozambique.

Over half of the States with which the EU has current fisheries agreements have no current protocols, or the protocols will very shortly expire. In order to ensure the future of the fishing sector, it is vital to renew the outstanding fisheries protocols and explore new agreements.

What are the Commission's negotiation priorities, and what are the prospects of reaching new protocols?

Is the Commission exploring new fishing grounds in third-party States which will allow the fishing activity to continue?

What solutions can the Commission offer EU vessels currently in the waters of Mozambique?