

**Question for written answer E-002073/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Alain Cadec (PPE)

Subject: The eel trade

Eel fishing has declined since 2010 because of implementation of the eel management plan, but also because of the ban on exporting elvers to highly profitable markets (inclusion in Appendix II to the CITES). In 2014, the Member States introduced eel management measures within the framework of national eel management plans, to facilitate river migration and protect elvers in internal waterways.

On 21 November 2014, the Commission published a report on these national management plans, whose recommendations form the basis for protection of the species. The Commission says that supplementary measures could be introduced to reduce current human-induced mortality rates.

Those in the industry are especially affected by the fact that they cannot export their product to non-European markets. As chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Fisheries, I am concerned about the survival of this non-industrial fleet.

1. How is the Commission going to help elver fisheries, which are being affected by ongoing protection measures that are making this European species less and less competitive?
2. What would be the content and legal basis of any supplementary measures the Commission might propose?