

**Question for written answer E-002102/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Need for a Community observatory on traceability to monitor preserved tuna imports to the EU

According to various studies carried out by Interatún and other laboratories with links to the Spanish tuna canning sector, which is responsible for 67 % of EU production and 20 140 direct jobs, 85 % of the imported preserved tuna that is marketed in the EU does not comply with the obligatory rules for retail sales.

It should be pointed out that, of the 733 000 tonnes of preserved tuna consumed in Europe last year, over half, specifically 383 000 tonnes, came from third countries. According to the sector's estimations, Spain, which produces 235 000 tonnes, could produce 146 600 tonnes more and create another 8 435 direct jobs if imports that fail to comply with the hygiene-sanitary standards required from Member States were banned from the EU market.

The tuna canning sector therefore proposes that a Community observatory on traceability should be set up, which it estimates could reduce our dependence on preserved tuna imports by 20 % in the EU.

Are there any plans in this regard?

What measures of control are currently applied and with what results?

Are any new measures of control planned?