

**Question for written answer E-003459/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Isabelle Thomas (S&D)

Subject: Data on eels

Fishermen are currently observing a dramatic rise in the numbers of eels present in fishing waters, which rise is supported by graphs and other data.

However, the data available to European scientific institutes are full of gaps and have been adjudged wholly unreliable.

All management decisions are nevertheless governed by the actual status of eel stocks, and as a result a number of extremely strict and rigid rules are currently being imposed. It therefore appears to be of paramount importance to update the European data to fall in line with what is being observed on the ground.

To that end, the Commission recently vowed to assess the methods used to calculate the data of Member States.

Can the Commission specify how far along it is in that assessment, and whether any measures are going to be taken in order to improve the quality of the data received?