

**Question for written answer E-004180/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ole Christensen (S&D)

Subject: Norway's unilateral increase in the 2015 quota for blue whiting

Agreement has not yet been reached between the coastal nations of the EU on the quota (TAC) for blue whiting. As a consequence of the failure to agree the TAC, Norway has increased its quota share from 25.75 % to 35 % of the recommended quota, i.e. 498 200 tonnes.

1. How will the Commission ensure that EU fishermen do not lose income and fishing potential in 2015 and the longer term in connection with Norway's unilateral increase of the quota for blue whiting in 2015?
2. What is the Commission's strategy for bringing the EU share of the TAC for blue whiting into line with the biological reality and the historic rights of the EU fleet?