

**Question for written answer E-006534/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Duty on imports of tuna loin to the EU

As part of the European fishing association Europeche, the Confederación Española de Pesca [Spanish Fishing Confederation], CEPESCA, has requested that the Commission do away with the quota of 22 000 tonnes of tuna loin that it is permitted to import with zero duty from Thailand, China or Vietnam. It feels that the European tuna-fishing fleet, together with the fleets from those countries that have preferential agreements in place, is sufficient to provide the European canning industry with raw materials. Various NGOs working in conservation have expressed this same idea.

In contrast, the Spanish canning industry, represented by ANFACO, along with FEICOPESCA and the European Fish Processors Association, wish to maximise this quota of tuna that can be imported with zero duty, so as to be able to acquire raw materials at low cost. They are speaking of increasing it up to 30 000 tonnes, with an automatic increase of 20 %, depending on the level of use thereof for the period from 2016 to 2018.

What solutions is the Commission considering to deal with this conflict of interests within the sector?