

**Question for written answer E-008769/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Gabriel Mato (PPE) and Carlos Iturgaiz (PPE)**

Subject: Trends in the number of fishing vessels in the EU

The number of vessels dedicated to fishing in the EU fell from 104 000 in 1995 to 86 500 in 2013. Moreover, coinciding with the accession of Croatia, a 7.2 % increase on the 2012 numbers has been recorded, according to Commission figures.

1. What are the Commission's figures for trends in the number of vessels in recent years?
2. What steps is the Commission taking to prevent the continued decline in the number of fishing vessels?