

Question for written answer E-011013/2015
to the Council
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Deep-sea fishing and endangered species

In June 2015, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) published a review entitled 'European Red List of Marine Fishes.' In it, the IUCN describes the health of marine fish populations, and its findings are alarming.

It concludes that deep-sea fishing nets that do not allow sorting have a direct and harmful impact both on marine ecosystems and on the species inhabiting these ecosystems. Such nets are particularly important economically for industrial fishing concerns, so that two of the three species targeted have now been assessed and described by the IUCN as endangered: the blue ling and the roundnose grenadier.

This raises very serious questions about the failure of governments to limit the damage caused by deep-sea fishing and about the influence of lobbyists representing major industrial groups at the expense of the environment.

Can the Council suggest a framework for cooperation involving the Member States concerned with a view to greatly reducing the impact of deep-sea fishing on endangered species?