

**Question for written answer E-013866/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ricardo Serrão Santos (S&D) and Liliana Rodrigues (S&D)

Subject: EMFF approval for Portugal

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) is a milestone to the extent that it provides the new common fisheries policy with an EU financing instrument. Although it should have become operational in January 2014, the fund is still not available. This has been causing instability and uncertainty among those involved in maritime activities, and the effects are making themselves felt particularly keenly in the Azores and Madeira, Portuguese outermost regions, which, having been encompassed within the EMFF, have been deprived of the POSEI Fisheries scheme.

On what date is the EMFF due to be approved for Portugal?