

**Question for written answer E-014602/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Olaf Stuger (ENF)**

Subject: Dutch flatfish fleet entangled in Brussels regulations

New Brussels legislation is threatening to deal the death blow to the already much reduced Dutch flatfish fleet. In just under two months' time, new European laws will require crews to land all undersized fish – 'by-catch' – dead. This by-catch will earn fishermen nothing but will count towards the maximum quantity of fish that may be caught. In the industry it is feared that, unless this rule is amended quickly, bankruptcies will follow.

1. Is the Commission aware of the concerns of the Dutch fishing industry and if so, will it withdraw this misbegotten plan and immediately stop adopting damaging legislation which is damaging to the Dutch fishing industry and economy?
2. If not, will the Commission, possibly jointly with the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, seek grounds for exemptions for these fishermen? If not, why not?
3. How does the Commissioner for 'Better Law-Making', Mr Frans Timmermans, intend to stop or alter this new, superfluous legislation so as to avoid problems for the Dutch fishing industry?