

**Question for written answer E-015290/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Cephalopod fishing in Mauritania

I have been calling for the return of the EU cephalopod fishing fleet to Mauritanian waters ever since the start of my mandate as a Member of the European Parliament. This was in fact one of my first demands (written question E-005811/2014 of 17 July 2014).

Regrettably, the new Protocol signed in October at a cost of nearly EUR 60 million per year (double that of the next highest, with Morocco, where the cost is EUR 30 million), once again leaves the EU cephalopod sector with no fishing opportunities.

This is happening against the background of an improvement in stock status backed by scientific data. Information is circulating to the effect that over 30 000 tonnes of cephalopods have been caught in Mauritanian waters this year in the absence of the EU fleet or any offers from the Mauritanian authorities to issue private fishing licences for this sector.

Article 1 of the Protocol grants the EU priority access to available surpluses in the fishing zone, while Article 5 states that evaluations carried out may result in a review of the catch limit applicable to EU cephalopod vessels. Ratification of the Protocol by Parliament is still pending. In view of these facts, could the Commission say when the EU cephalopod fleet will return to Mauritanian waters?