

**Question for written answer E-000195/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Cuts in the Iberian hake quota

Far from simplifying the rules and providing legal certainty for the European fleet, the latest negotiations on the allocation of EU fishing quotas appear to create a regulatory framework which is at odds with the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

In the specific case of hake in the southern fishing grounds, it is unclear what criteria were used to reduce the initial proposal for a 60.5% cut to 25% for a species which last year already saw a cut of 15%.

These fluctuations are endangering the future of a sector which cannot understand the criteria that are being applied, particularly given the discard ban and the objective of maximum sustainable yield by 2020.

When drawing up its proposals for allocating quotas, does the Commission take into account the three aspects of sustainability: environmental, economic and social?

Can it give details of the environmental, economic and social benefits and costs expected from the reduction in the Iberian hake quota?

How does it intend to compensate for any damage caused by the measure that has been adopted?