

**Question for written answer E-001421/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**José Blanco López (S&D)**

Subject: Draft law on aquaculture in Galicia (Spain)

In January 2016 Galicia's regional government put forward a draft law on aquaculture justifying this by saying it would facilitate the sector's right to apply for EU aid. However Galician guilds and 'bateeiros' (mussel gatherers) have had misgivings about this draft law right from the start. Their reasons are as follows:

Firstly, because this will permit 'integrated multi-trophic aquaculture', namely a system under which it is possible to raise fish, shellfish and algae together and whose environmental effects on Galicia's estuaries are unknown;

Secondly, because this constitutes an attempt to strip town councils of their powers as they will not be able to turn down plans for a plant and facilitate land expropriation, including in areas protected by the Natura 2000 network;

Lastly, because it allows species foreign to Galicia's maritime eco-system to be raised.

Does the Commission consider that this reform is necessary in order to have the right to apply for EU aid? Does it believe that it could pose a threat to conservation in the estuaries and areas under special environmental protection? Could this, in its opinion, encourage the proliferation of invasive species?