

**Question for written answer E-002807/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Obligation to report on the operation of, and international developments regarding, Article 6(2) of Regulation (EU) No 605/2013 on the removal of fins of sharks on board vessels

Under Article 6(2) of Regulation (EU) No 605/2013 on the removal of fins of sharks on board vessels, the Commission must 'report to the European Parliament and the Council on the operation of this Regulation and the international developments in this field' before 1 January 2016.

This has not yet been done and there is an urgent need to know how the Regulation is working for the EU fishing fleet, both from an environmental and from a socio-economic standpoint, and about international developments, in circumstances where no such obligations apply to countries such as China, Korea and Japan, to the detriment of the competitiveness of our fleet.

In reply to my written question E-000726/2015 of January 2015, the Commission pointed to the absence of any evaluation reports on this Regulation (Article 6(1)) for Croatia, Italy, Netherlands and Romania, while Greece, Portugal and Spain had submitted incomplete reports.

When will the Commission submit to Parliament its report on the operation of, and international developments regarding, Regulation (EU) No 605/2013, which was due 'at the latest' by 1 January 2016? Does the Commission have full information from all EU Member States? What have the socio-economic and environmental effects of this measure been in Europe?