

**Question for written answer E-003582/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Alain Cadec (PPE)

Subject: Fisheries management in the Mediterranean

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), figures on fishing effort in the Mediterranean are virtually non-existent. Given the complexity and diversity of Mediterranean fisheries, the information available is inadequate for regular and reliable assessments for most species. The structure of Mediterranean fisheries (dispersed fleets, countless landing points and multi-species catches) makes it difficult and expensive to obtain data for stock assessment purposes.

The FAO also reports that few formal stock and fisheries assessments have been carried out in the Mediterranean, largely because most of the stocks are not shared between countries. As a consequence, there is no pressure to assess resources and no adaptive management system has been set up. With some exceptions, fisheries management does not involve quotas; it is based instead on effort limitation and minimum sizes.

The Commission has established an important discussion framework in a bid to introduce fishery management measures in the Mediterranean and complement the work of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

1. How does the Commission intend to improve stock assessments in the Mediterranean?
2. What measures will the Commission put to Member States and coastal states to restore stocks in the Mediterranean?