

**Question for written answer E-009237/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**José Blanco López (S&D)**

Subject: Fishing quotas in multispecies fisheries and the zero discards target

The zero discards target is a particularly difficult one to achieve in multispecies fisheries. It can have a major impact on vessels involved in small-scale sustainable fishing.

A vessel that has a sufficient quota for the species that is the main focus of its fishing activity could be forced to stop fishing if it accidentally exceeds the limit for secondary species for which it has a very low quota or no quota at all.

More than nine in every ten small-scale boats in the northern part of the Cantabrian Sea are based in Galicia, which is home to almost 60% of Spain's entire small-scale fishing fleet, and the introduction of the zero discards target is a matter of particular concern for the operators of the boats concerned.

1. Is the Commission considering withdrawing quotas for species in respect of which it is difficult to hit the zero discards target, in particular with regard to multispecies fisheries and the small-scale fishing fleet?
2. Is it listening to the sectors that are affected by the introduction of the zero discards target?