

**Question for written answer E-002766/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Carolina Punset (ALDE)**

Subject: Illegal fishing in Antarctica

Recently, the Spanish Supreme Court decreed the 'closing, owing to a lack of jurisdiction on the part of the Spanish courts' of a case involving environmental crime, document forgery, money laundering and illegal activity in breach of several directives by a Spanish company linked to three boats caught fishing toothfish without a licence in Antarctic waters. The court concluded the Spanish courts did not have the jurisdiction to try a crime that is not considered as such in international waters.

The crime occurred in international waters, which are covered by the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). However, according to the Spanish Supreme Court's judgment, 'the reading of the main provisions of the Convention reveals no intent on the part of the parties to mandatorily prosecute fishing offences involving the catching of toothfish'.

1. Does the Commission believe that the case-law established for these types of legal rulings could transform Antarctic land or marine spaces into 'lawless territories'?
2. Does the Commission intend to launch enforcement mechanisms on the basis of the CCAMLR that will prevent these activities which are degrading Europe?