**Question for written answer E-003232/2017**

**to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Sylvie Goddyn (ENF)**

Subject: Developing the production of insect meal for aquaculture

The Commission has authorised the use from 1 July 2017 of insect meal in feed for farmed fish.

Insect meal provides a sustainable alternative to industrial fishing, for which fish are caught to be turned into fish meal for aquaculture or animal feed. Industrial fishing accelerates the depletion of marine resources and weakens the marine ecosystem.

By contrast, the production of insect meal is considered to have little or no impact on natural habitats. Insects have promising nutritional properties, particularly their high protein content. The production of insect or micro-algae meal is therefore desirable for fish farmers and for the environment.

How does the Commission intend to promote the use of insect meal in aquaculture?

What mechanisms will it introduce to further the development of insect farms which produce meal for aquaculture?