

Question for written answer E-003516/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Florent Marcellesi (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Scrapping of fishing vessels

The order regulating subsidies under the 2007-2013 multiannual European Fisheries Fund was published in 2008, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 of 27 July 2006. The order laid down that subsidies would be paid when fishing vessels that had been operational for at least 120 days during the previous year were scrapped. Many shipowners in the Autonomous Community of Valencia (Spain) took advantage of this and were paid the subsidies. However in 2014 an audit by the Commission decided that the documents substantiating the 120 days of operation provided insufficient proof. The owners of four vessels from Valencia were forced to return the monies they had received six years previously, even though proof had been provided at the time of their vessels' fishing operations and this had been verified by the regional authorities. The owners of these vessels have been treated most unfairly, with no prospects of any redress.

1. Is the Commission aware of these events?
2. Does it consider that in refusing to accept said proof of fishing operations – proof which the regional authorities had accepted – the correct criteria were applied?