

**Question for written answer E-004403/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**José Blanco López (S&D)**

Subject: Brexit and the European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) for monitoring bacteriological and viral contamination of bivalve molluscs

One of the many consequences of the UK leaving the EU is the relocation of the EURL for monitoring bacteriological and viral contamination of bivalve molluscs, which is currently in Weymouth. In that regard, fishing, aquaculture and the shell-fish industry have an extensive economic and social fabric in Galicia, Spain, which makes it a recognised leader in that sector in the EU.

In this context, I would like to echo the recent statements made by the Galician Regional Government's representatives in calling for the laboratory to be moved to Galicia, together with the European Fisheries Control Agency and other research centres in the field, such as Intecmar (the Technological Institute for the Monitoring of the Marine Environment in Galicia), IGAFA (the Galician Institute for Aquaculture Training), CIMA (the Galician Centre for Marine Research) and Cetmar (the Sea Technology Centre), thus boosting the collaborative work in the area and improving the quality of scientific output, the industry's productivity and its development.

1. Has the Commission received any kind of notice or official request from a Member State regarding the relocation of the EURL for monitoring bacteriological and viral contamination of bivalve molluscs?
2. Is the Commission considering moving the laboratory to Galicia?