

**Question for written answer E-006386/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Norbert Erdős (PPE)**

Subject: Support for freshwater aquaculture

It was a welcome development when ten Member States recently signed a joint declaration to maintain EU support for the aquaculture sector post 2020. Saltwater and freshwater aqua farms have developed hugely in recent years and provide Europe's citizens and rural areas with a great many benefits in terms of rural development, job creation, food safety, food quality and environmental benefits.

Sadly, however, aquaculture is currently of secondary importance to fishing in the EU. It is clear that the EU needs to promote a qualitative change in aquaculture development alongside sustainable sea fishing. This will increase the competitiveness of the sector and reduce Europe's dependence on imports of fish products. The EU accounts for less than 2% of the fish produced by aquaculture worldwide but leads the field in terms of quality; indeed, freshwater aquaculture, which accounts for 20% of the fish farming sector in the EU, is already hugely important in economic and environmental terms (jobs and maintaining biological diversity / Natura 2000 areas, respectively).

1. How will the Commission steadily increase EU support for freshwater aquaculture in future?
2. What has the Commission done so far, and what will it do in the future, to promote foods produced by sustainable aquaculture?
3. How will the Commission respond to the declaration on post-2020 financing of EU support for aquaculture?