

**Question for written answer E-000282/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Protection of the 'xeito'

The proposal in 2014 to ban driftnets such as the traditional 'xeito' fishing net caused alarm at the time in Galicia's small-scale fisheries sector and forced the Commission to withdraw this veto. A promise was made that the 'xeito' would be protected in the technical measures regulation voted on by Parliament on 16 January 2018.

In 2017 I explained in a letter to Commissioner Vella my doubts concerning inclusion of the 'xeito' in the proposal for a regulation. In his reply of December 2017, the Commissioner said that as the 'xeito' net is less than 1 km in length, it would not be affected by the ban contained in the proposed regulation on using nets longer than 2.5 km, and furthermore, that sardines, which the 'xeito' is used to catch, do not figure among the species that may no longer be fished with drift nets.

In spite of this, the 'xeito' net, with its mesh size of between 23 mm and 40 mm, does not figure in Annex VII. My amendments on this issue were not adopted; nor was the rapporteur's amendment seeking to include, for sardines, a mesh size smaller than 40 mm.

Can the Commission guarantee that the 'xeito' net will be protected, on account of both its length and its mesh size?