

Question for written answer E-002547/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Francesc Gambús (PPE)

Subject: Situation in the fisheries sector in the north-west Mediterranean

In its answer to written question E-002286-2016, the Commission stated, in respect of the payment of aid for the cessation of fishing activities in the south of Catalonia, that '[t]emporary cessation measures may be co-financed by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund under conditions¹ and were included in the two relevant operational programmes in Spain. Under shared management, it is the final responsibility of Spain to implement these measures, provided the regulatory conditions are met'. However, demands for such aid continue apace, highlighting the obstacles and administrative burden fishermen have to face to access such aid under the EMFF, in addition as to uncertainty as to when it can be disbursed (routinely between two and three years late).

- 1) Does the Commission believe the current system of temporary cessation measures that may be co-financed under the FEMP to be working well enough?
- 2) Is the Commission looking into the possibility of regionalising, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, the management of these measures as part of a future reform of the EMFF Regulation?
- 3) Does the Commission have any preliminary findings on the state of stocks of small pelagic species in the north-west Mediterranean?

¹ Article 33 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2328/2003, (EC) No 861/2006, (EC) No 1198/2006 and (EC) No 791/2007 and Regulation (EU) No 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council, (OJ L 149, 20.5.2014, p. 1-66).