

**Question for written answer E-002246/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
João Ferreira (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Support for small-scale, artisanal and coastal fishing

In 2015, the pilot project 'Support measures for small-scale fishing' was approved as part of the EU's budgetary process. The pilot project was implemented in the Black Sea region and ended in 2017 with the publication of its activities and the conclusions of the studies that backed it up.

Small-scale, artisanal and coastal fishing is the sector hit hardest by the over-exploitation of fish stocks, our inability to intervene in the market for fisheries products, worsening working conditions and reduced access to structural funds, causing untold damage to the economy, social fabric and culture of several European regions.

The existence of experiments that could potentially be used to help the sector bounce back from its downward spiral by innovating and improving its material conditions is of great importance, and it is believed that this experiment can be replicated.

1. What has the Commission done to ensure that the conclusions of this pilot project, and information on the realities of local fisheries, reach the Member States?
2. What can the Commission do to encourage the implementation of the support measures set out in the pilot project in other regions?
3. Will the Commission consider proposing or supporting a pilot project along similar lines concerning the reality of small-scale, artisanal and coastal fisheries in our south-western waters, particularly in Portugal?