

**Question for written answer P-004535/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Ban on trawling below 800 metres in international waters (NEAFC)

As the Commission knows, in the coming days we will enter the final stage of the trilogue between the Commission, Council and Parliament with a view to reaching an agreement on the proposal for a regulation establishing specific conditions to fishing for deep-sea stocks in the North-East Atlantic and provisions for fishing in international waters of the North-East Atlantic, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 2347/2002.

According to my information, there appears to be agreement between the institutions on banning trawling below 800 metres in Community waters, but there are still some differences of opinion as regards extending this measure to international waters (NEAFC), where the measure would apply only to the EU fleet.

The Spanish fleet fishing below 800 metres in the NEAFC area plays an important social and economic role, and it also operates sustainably.

Will the Commission stand by its commitment to ban trawling below 800 metres in Community waters only, without extending the measure to international waters (NEAFC)?