**Question for written answer P-004720/2018**

**to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Ole Christensen (S&D)**

Subject: TACs and quotas in the Baltic Sea

In the Commission proposal on Baltic Sea fishing opportunities for 2019, (<https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/commission-proposes-baltic-sea-fishing-opportunities-2019-increased-quotas-plaice-and-western-cod_en>) the TAC for western herring (subdivisions 22-24) has been cut by 63%, while for western cod (subdivisions 22-24) the TAC has been raised by 31%.

With the above in mind, why does the Commission’s proposal for the western herring TAC (subdivisions 22-24) not tally with the reference levels laid down in the Multiannual Management Plan for the Baltic Sea (Regulation (EU) 2016/1139)? According to that regulation, the TAC ought to be raised by 5% in 2019.

Why is the Commission proposing a TAC for western cod (subdivisions 22-24) that is lower than the FMSY as laid down in the Multiannual Management Plan for the Baltic Sea (Regulation (EU) 2016/1139)?

The ICES advice on western cod (subdivisions 22-24) actually states that just one year has been used to justify the increase. It is also estimated that the stock in a fishery at FMSY is likely to increase to more than 75 000 tonnes – the highest figure ever. Does the Commission not think the fishing industry deserves to be rewarded for the burden it has had to shoulder over the past two years?