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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.1.2026)

1. Import controls are essential to prevent products stemming from illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing entering the EU market. This is why the Commission has reinforced the work with the Member States on this, including by developing CATCH (IT system for the management of EU catch certificates and related documents under the catch certification scheme), which became mandatory for EU importers and Member States as of 10 January 2026.

2. The Commission was aware of the situation reported by Faro de Vigo. The North Pacific Fisheries Commission's (NPFC) Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) noted in 2017¹ 'that there are seven cases of two vessels with the same name and number, and recommended the automatic inclusion of the seven illegal vessels once the authorised vessels have been re-registered under new names'. After that, vessels using those names (LU RONG YUAN YU 101/102/103/105/106/108/109) without authorisation were included in the NPFC IUU list. Therefore, the LU RONG YUAN YU 101-109 authorised by China, which changed their names to LU RONG YUAN YU 810/811/812/813/815/816/817, were authorised to operate in NPFC under the new names – with their former names clearly mentioned in the NPFC Record of Authorised vessels. In 2024, the TCC stated² that 'the United States of America noted that they met on the margins of TCC with China regarding vessels 17-23 on the IUU vessel list'. No update or modification of the information in the IUU list was made further to that meeting.

3. As indicated in the response to the joint advice by the Long Distance and the Market Advisory Councils on the urgent need for effective implementation of EU import control rules across Member States, the Commission has taken into account a number of recommendations in its ongoing work.

¹ North Pacific Fisheries Commission's (NPFC) report of the Second Meeting of the Technical and Compliance Committee (reference NPFC-2017-TCC02-Final Report): <https://www.npfc.int/sites/default/files/2018-08/NPFC-2017-TCC02-Final%20Report.pdf>.

² NPFC report Seventh Technical and Compliance Committee Meeting (NPFC-2024-TCC07-Final Report): <https://www.npfc.int/sites/default/files/2024-06/NPFC-2024-TCC07-Final%20Report.pdf>.