

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2797/01
by Carmen Fraga Estevez (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Use of the "ferrettara"

The Commission report on the application of Community legislation on the use of drift nets in 2002 indicates that part of the Italian "spadare" fleet has been converted to use the "ferrettara". According to the Commission's report, the latter has an even smaller mesh size than the "spadare" (180 mm as opposed to 350 mm). Moreover, pursuant to Italian legislation, mesh size will be further reduced to 100 mm as of 1 January 2002. Thus, according to the report, as of 2002 an unspecified number of vessels shall operate with drift nets of up to 2 km in length and a mesh size of 100 mm in the 3 mile coastal zone.

Can the Commission say to what extent the abovementioned Italian legislation is compatible with Community law? Can the Commission provide any information on the impact on resources of such a fleet operating with drift nets of up to 2 km in length and a mesh size of 100 mm in coastal areas and on its compatibility with sustainable development?