

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0759/02  
by Brigitte Langenhagen (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: One-net rule

I have received information from several sources that, instead of moving to other fishing grounds, Danish and Dutch fishing vessels are compensating for low catches by fishing with two or even four nets at once. Such action would totally contradict efforts towards sustainable fisheries and the preservation of the biomass, since the areas concerned are virtually ransacked by this method. This is also directly related to the issue of the use of by-catches.

1. Is the Commission aware of this practice?
2. Is this fishing method compatible with the 'one-net rule'?
2. If this method is not compatible with European rules, what steps will the Commission take to deal with it?