

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1371/02

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to the Commission

Subject: State of crisis in the European aquaculture sector

Greek production of sea bass and gilthead seabream is continuing to cause serious damage to the whole European industry, owing to both the Greek industry itself and inadequate supervision on the part of the Commission and the Greek Government.

The four most important producer countries (France, Italy, Portugal and Spain) have asked the Commission to consider the issue again in greater detail, in order to ensure just and fair competition among all the Member States, since Greek producers have for some time been selling the product well below the cost price.

Can the Commission take urgent action to ensure that the Greek Government complies and ensures compliance with current legislation?

Can it introduce a strict monitoring system to ensure that public subsidies in Greece are used exclusively for their original purpose?

Does it intend to draft a new Green Paper setting out a more realistic approach to the development of aquaculture in Europe over the next ten years, by laying down parameters to encourage progressive but healthy development?

What steps will it take to put a stop to a situation which is becoming more and more serious and alarming for the whole European aquaculture industry?