

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0066/03  
by Carlos Bautista Ojeda (Verts/ALE)  
to the Council

Subject: Fisheries conflicts between Spain and Portugal

A few days ago, for the second time in recent months, a conflictive incident occurred involving the Spanish and Portuguese fishing fleets. A Portuguese patrol boat shot at a group of Andalusian fishermen who had crossed the border of the Spanish territorial waters and were fishing in Portuguese waters.

Is the Council aware of this circumstance?

Does the Council believe it reasonable that a mere breach of the rules by Spanish fishermen should meet with such a response, which could be considered an act of war?

Does the Council find it acceptable that incidents like this should occur between two Member States?

Does the Council intend to take any action to deal with the problems raised by conflictive incidents of this nature?