

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2563/04
by Fernando Fernández Martín (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Withdrawal of the fisheries aid granted to the outermost regions

The proposal concerning the establishment of the new European Fisheries Fund (EFF) calls for the withdrawal of the shipbuilding aid granted to the outermost regions. Such a step - together with the fact that many regions (including the Canary Islands) may lose their Structural Fund Objective 1 status - will sharply reduce the amount of funding allocated to such regions. The Canary Islands' fisheries sector has already suffered a major setback following the conclusion of the fisheries agreement with Morocco and the Commission proposal (seen in the light of the new financial perspective) will deal a further blow to the development of the islands' fisheries sector, since it contains no provision for special treatment in respect of the outermost regions.

Given that the Canary Islands' fishing fleet is a local, small-scale one, does the Commission not think that it should make funding available in order to prevent the vessels concerned from becoming old and worn-out and thus to ensure that the sector survives?