

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2729/06  
by Henrik Kristensen (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Causes of decline in European eel stock

Further to the Commission's proposal for a Council Regulation establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel (COM(2005)0472), I have been informed that a parasite (a swim bladder nematode) called *Anguillicola crassus* arrived in Europe from South-East Asia in the early 1980s. This parasite is thought to have had an impact on the declining stock of European eel of the species *Anguilla anguilla*. In the Commission's view, what is the significance of this parasite in relation to the European eel stock?

Environmental problems have also been mentioned on numerous occasions as possible causes of the decline in the eel stock. What measures does the Commission intend to take to tackle these problems?

In the Commission's view, how significant are exports of glass eels to Asia in relation to the overall decline in the stock?

What, in general, does the Commission consider to be the most important cause of the decline in the European eel stock?