

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5389/06
by Roland Gewalt (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Review of cod catch quotas for the purposes of the multiannual plan

In its proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks in the Baltic Sea (2007) of 5 September 2006, the Commission recommended a progressive reduction in cod catch quotas of 15% annually, together with an annual 10% reduction in the number of fishing days.

However, efforts to achieve the objective of the Commission's multiannual plan are being undermined by the failure of a number of Baltic countries to comply with current cod catch quotas, something not to be taken lightly.

1. Can the Commission confirm Polish newspaper reports (Gazeta Wyborcza of 3 August 2006) to the effect that, in 2004, Polish cod catches in the Baltic Sea of between 70 000 and 100 000 exceeded the quota many times over?
2. Is it possible consistently to enforce present and future Community rules and provisions on Baltic Sea cod catches in all Member States and monitor the implementation thereof?