

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4526/07

by Willi Piecyk (PSE) and Heinz Kindermann (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Ban on cod fishing in the Baltic Sea by vessels sailing under the Polish flag

In July 2007, the Commission banned cod fishing in the Baltic Sea by vessels sailing under the Polish flag. The reasons for the ban were that cod catches by Polish vessels in the Baltic Sea were found to be higher than the amounts declared by Poland and that its fishing quota had already been exhausted.

Through what legal instruments can the Commission penalise Poland for overfishing and how does it intend to make use of them?

Is the Commission able to retract monies already granted to Poland from the European Fisheries Fund, and does it intend to do so?

How will the Commission monitor Poland's compliance with the individual demands made of it to prevent overfishing of cod stocks in the Baltic Sea in future?