

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5420/07  
by Bogusław Rogalski (UEN)  
to the Commission

Subject: Cod fishing quotas for Poland

The Polish fishing industry is on the threshold of what could well be its worst crisis since the Second World War. This situation has been brought about by the ban on cod fishing imposed by the Commission until the end of the year, which will probably extend into 2008.

Reports from the Polish Fishermen's Union about cod fishing quotas being overshoot by all the Baltic Sea countries (including Germany, Denmark and Sweden) are a serious cause for concern.

Furthermore, both the Polish Fishermen's Union and the Polish Government question the thoroughness of and basis for the EU checks.

Given the above, can the Commission say:

1. whether the checks carried out by EU inspectors are thorough and whether the findings can be deemed realistic;
2. whether the research into the location of stocks of cod and other species provides an accurate picture of the real situation;
3. whether the same checks are carried out, with the same frequency, in the Baltic Sea countries;
4. what measures it intends to take with a view to heading off the crisis in Poland;
5. whether the same problem is not likely to arise in connection with catches of other fish species?