

E-2155/08EN
Answer given by Mr Borg
on behalf of the Commission
(11.6.2008)

As explained in previous answers to the Honourable Member, the Commission is gathering information and scientific advice with a view to completing a Community Plan of Action on seabirds by the end of 2009.

On 14 May 2008, the Commission received the requested advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) reviewing the current status of interactions between fisheries and seabirds. Available information indicates a persistent and possibly severe problem in some waters. ICES, while acknowledging insufficient information and general lack of data, advises nevertheless that the EC should develop a Community Plan of Action based on available evidence of fisheries interactions with seabirds.

The Commission is now starting discussions and internal consultations on the structure and general orientation of the future Plan of Action on seabirds, taking into account available data.

The Plan will be included in the 2009 work programme of the Directorate-General responsible for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.