

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6323/08
by Heinz Kindermann (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Common fisheries policy: recirculation systems and their special position in aquaculture

The Commission is preparing a Communication on aquaculture in the European Union. Recirculation technology is a promising process for keeping fish in appropriate conditions while increasing production in a sustainable way. It uses recirculation processes to minimise the reciprocal effects of the environment and aquaculture and natural wastage is virtually eliminated.

1. To what extent are recirculation systems given comprehensive coverage in the new EU regulation on organic or environmental certification?
2. Does it also take account of secondary substances in circulation (algae or mussel production etc.)?
3. How does the Commission view the use of regenerative energy sources such as biogas plants in this context?
4. What position have recirculation systems generally occupied up to now in aquaculture and fisheries and what position ought they to occupy in future in the Commission's view?
5. What opportunities are there for recirculation plants in the allocation of EU subsidies?