

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0469/09  
by Johan Van Hecke (ALDE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Overfishing of Lake Victoria

Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania are currently exporting huge quantities of Nile perch to Europe. This lucrative export trade is causing overfishing of Lake Victoria, decimating the supply of fish for the local population, who as a result can no longer afford to buy it. According to Dickson Nyeko of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO), the overfishing constitutes a threat to the nearly 40 million people in the region. Moreover, much of the trade in Nile perch and tilapia is illegal and there is a danger that it may now cause conflicts between neighbouring countries. Fishermen are often entering the territorial waters of neighbouring countries without permission. Uganda has already accused the two other countries of non-compliance with the agreements on Lake Victoria and has arrested Kenyan fishermen.

Is the Commission aware of these developments, and can it provide information about any European rules on the subject?