

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1498/09  
by Witold Tomczak (IND/DEM)  
to the Commission

Subject: Cod fishing ban - Commission Regulation (EC) No 1012/2008

The prohibition on fishing for cod in Baltic Sea subdivisions 25-32 (EU waters) by vessels flying the flag of Poland, introduced by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1012/2008<sup>1</sup>, is seriously worsening the plight of Polish fishermen. It would appear from the information available that the Commission's decision was taken on the basis of questionable data and that the ban is unfair to Polish fishermen.

In the lights of the above, will the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Which bodies, and in particular which Polish bodies, were the source of the Commission's information regarding the alleged exhaustion of cod stocks by vessels flying the flag of Poland?
2. Will the Commission make this information available, together with the grounds for its decision on this matter, since this would be useful for Members of Parliament in their work?
3. Did the Commission attempt to check the data on this matter in the light of the complaints by Polish fishermen and, if so, on what basis did it reject those complaints?
4. Does the Commission plan to streamline its Baltic Sea fisheries policy (evaluation of stocks, total allowable catches, distribution of catch quotas, catch declaration systems, lifting the ban on driftnets for cod fishing, cod fishing by larger vessels such as trawlers, and so on), and, if so, when, given that by all accounts this policy is marred by countless irregularities and errors in decision-making?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 276, 17,10,2008, p. 23