

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6071/09
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to the Commission

Subject: Use of fish stocks caught in the Baltic for fishmeal production

The Green Paper on the reform of the EU's common fisheries policy (CFP) will have serious repercussions for the European fisheries sector. The Baltic Sea must be a vital element of the CFP, particularly as regards the conservation of fish species and the protection of coastal fisheries.

The idea of industrial fishing for non-food uses, which destroys populations of individual Baltic fish species, is totally at odds with the programmes implemented by the Commission to replenish these species. It is unacceptable that the CFP should encourage industrial, non-food catches, which are used to produce fishmeal to feed cattle and pigs. This kind of fishing damages Baltic fish stocks and is harmful to environment-friendly coastal fishing, which represents the livelihood of thousands of families who have worked in this sector for centuries.

In connection with the latest decisions taken by the Commission, which sharply reduce the herring quotas in the western Baltic, industrial non-food fishing must be curbed. Will the Commission therefore say:

- what percentage of the fish stocks caught in the Baltic are used for fishmeal production?
- how much fishmeal is produced by the individual Baltic states which are members of the European Union?