

**Question for written answer E-8213/2010  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Isabella Lövin (Verts/ALE), Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE) and Jean-Paul Besset (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: DG SANCO and fishing vessels

As long ago as 2007, in the Aubert report on implementation of the EU action plan against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (A6-0015/2007)<sup>1</sup>, the Parliament noted a problem with the EU system of drawing up lists of vessels authorised to export fish to the EU. Under Regulation 854/2004<sup>2</sup>, third countries are allowed to draw up lists of vessels flying their flag which are deemed to comply with EU sanitary requirements. At the time, the EU had no power to remove vessels from those lists, even if a vessel was included on a 'black list' for fishing illegally. Furthermore, the EU never inspects these vessels and consequently is entirely dependent upon inspections conducted by the third country. Various cases have been reported by Greenpeace of vessels on the DG SANCO list which were on black lists or appeared to have poor sanitary standards. Parliament called for the Commission to rectify these problems.

What action has the Commission taken? Does the EU now have the power to remove vessels from the lists of vessels, drawn up by third countries, that are allowed to export to the EU?

If so, could the Commission please inform Parliament as to the number of vessels so removed and the flag they flew, as well as the reasons for removal? Does the Commission regularly compare vessels on the third country list of authorised vessels with the various black lists of IUU vessels in existence with RFMOs and governments?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 287E, 29.11.2007, p. 502.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 206.