

**Question for written answer E-8224/2010
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: EU compliance with RFMO decisions

The EU is a member of a great many Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), and wields considerable influence within them on account of its political and economic importance.

Over the years, however, there have been times when the EU has not respected the management decisions of certain RFMOs. Instead, for instance, the EU has established its own unilateral quotas for certain stocks, resulting in total catches well beyond those recommended by scientists or the total allowable catch (TAC) set by the RFMO in question. The most flagrant examples were seen several years ago in the context of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO).

The EU is now trying to play a more positive role in RFMOs. Over the past 10 years, has the EU lodged any objections to management measures or other decisions agreed by an RFMO? If so, could the Commission please describe the objection (the RFMO concerned, and the measure objected to) and the justification for it?

Conversely, the EU always has the option of implementing an RFMO decision more restrictively, for instance by requiring more selective gear, unilaterally agreeing to a lower share of the TAC or imposing stricter monitoring requirements. Could the Commission please indicate whether the EU has ever taken advantage of this possibility? If so, could it provide details?