

**Question for written answer E-003237/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Bairbre de Brún (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Tackling seabird by-catch

In the answer to my question E-7531/2010 the Commission indicated that a study is being carried out 'aiming to deliver recommendations on best practices to reduce incidental catches [of birds] and, in parallel, the economic/social and environmental impacts associated to the use of mitigation measures', due at the beginning of 2011. The Commission also states that 'should the result from the ongoing study lead to the conclusion that a more systematic data collection in incidental catches of seabirds would be desirable, the Commission will examine the possibilities for extending the scope of the Data Collection Framework'.

Using the outcomes of the study, can the Commission indicate what measures are going to be proposed in EU fisheries legislation to address the problem of seabird by-catch? Is the Commission considering extending the scope of the Data Collection Framework to improve understanding of the impacts that fishing operations have on seabird populations?

Can the Commission confirm that the Community plan of action for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in fishing gears is going to be adopted in the fourth quarter of 2011, as indicated in the DG Mare work programme?