

**Question for written answer E-006181/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Carl Haglund (ALDE)

Subject: Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the southern Baltic

For some considerable time Baltic fishermen have been complaining about the amount of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the southern Baltic. In the media reference has been made to Polish websites dealing with wholesale fish selling, where the number of refrigerated Baltic salmon exceeds the reported catch (see for example *Helsingin Sanomat* of 25 April 2011).

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) now estimates in its advice for May 2011 that unreported Polish salmon fishing ('Estimated additional Polish catch', p. 108) totalled 70 511 salmon in 2010.

In this connection, it is important to note the following points.

- Sustainable fishing implies that the common rules are observed and all catches are reported to the authorities.
- Widespread salmon fishing with unregistered catches unquestionably makes any estimate of salmon stocks in the Baltic difficult and may lead to depleted stocks.
- Effective control over fishing in the southern Baltic is essential for promotion of the development of wild salmon stocks in the Gulf of Bothnia.
- Longline salmon fishing has increased considerably since the period for longlining was extended in 2005 and driftnets were banned in 2008; as a result there has been an increase in catches of small, undersized salmon, which according to the rules are illegal and should be thrown back.
- Poland is taking over the Presidency of the European Council on 1 July and is giving priority to the work on the Baltic.

In the light of this, would the Commission answer the following questions.

- What measures does the Commission intend to take to stop the current well-documented illegal fishing of salmon?
- What measures does the Commission intend to take to stop the large-scale misreporting of salmon as sea trout, as described in the ICES advice¹?
- What measures does the Commission intend to take to minimise the discarding of undersized salmon in longline fishing?

¹ <http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2011/2011/sal-2231.pdf>.