

**Question for written answer E-008094/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Jean-Paul Basset (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Regulation (CE) No 517/2008, concerning determination of mesh size and assessment of twine thickness in respect of fishing nets

The following is an extract from Commission Regulation (CE) No 517/2008 of 10 June 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 850/98 as regards the determination of the mesh size and assessing the thickness of twine of fishing nets:

‘Article 2

Definitions

For the purpose of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

[...]

(b) “active gear” means any fishing gear for which the catch operation requires an active movement of the gear, including in particular towed gears, encircling gears, trawls, Danish seines and similar towed nets;

(c) “passive gear” means any fishing gear for which the catch operation does not require an active movement of the gear, and includes gillnets, entangling nets, trammel nets, trap-nets, lines, pots and traps;’.

The Technical Measures Regulation is a crucial component in the regulatory framework. It sets authorised catch quotas for each species according to the type of mesh used, drawing a distinction between active and passive gear. Some gear, such as purse seines, does not fall into either of these categories, and is consequently not subject to any restrictions.

How does the Commission intend to remove this ambiguity?