

**Question for written answer E-002522/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
François Alfonsi (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Fisheries agreement with Mauritania

As the rapporteur for the opinion of the Committee on Budgets on the EU-Mauritania Fisheries Agreement, I proposed that the agreement should be adopted as negotiated.

Rejecting the agreement would have nothing but adverse consequences:

- for Mauritania, which enjoys vitally important financial support;
- for European fishers, who are given access to a resource which allows them to sustain their activities and keep their jobs;
- for fisheries resources, since this agreement provides for an overall reduction in fishing effort.

However, I have been asked why this new agreement contains no fishing quotas at all for octopus, given that this specific form of fishing is a crucial activity for certain ports, in particular in Galicia, and given that it was previously included in the agreement.

What are the reasons behind the ban on this specific form of fishing, given that the agreement provides for a simple reduction in catches for other species whose replenishment is no longer guaranteed?