

**Question for written answer E-006132/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Gangui fishing

Gangui fishing is a traditional fishing method used off the coast of Provence. As well as adding to the richness of the local cuisine, this type of fishing also contributes to the development of many direct and indirect jobs (fish wholesalers, canning, catering) and to the area's appeal to tourists.

This traditional fishing method is now strictly regulated by the European Union, specifically through Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006, yet catches from this method do not exceed 1 000 tonnes of fish harvested per year.

As a result, the size of the fishing vessels must not exceed 12 metres, their engine power must not exceed 85 kW and their activity is regulated by a local plan for the sustainable management of resources.

Since 2010, a new rule has been imposed under Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006: the nets used must now have a square mesh of at least 40 mm, while the netting used initially was 22 mm and diamond-shaped.

However, although the supposed objective of the change in the mesh is to reduce catches of juveniles, a study by the French Research Institute for the Exploitation of the Sea shows that using a 40 mm mesh does not enable this objective to be reached and threatens the viability of this economic activity.

The study concludes that although such a change to the netting could reduce catches of juveniles by 29 %, this would mainly correspond to species which are not affected by a minimum legal size.

Furthermore, these meshes would lead to a 60 % reduction in hourly outputs in terms of the weight of catches and would cause fishermen to make multiple daily trips to try to maintain the initial landing value, at the risk of having a detrimental impact on the environment.

1. Is the Commission aware of this study? In view of this, what measures have been taken to ensure that this traditional method of fishing remains economically viable?
2. Does the Commission intend to extend the authorisation to use nets with 22 mm diamond-shaped mesh so as to ensure the continuity of this type of traditional fishing and local jobs?