

**Question for written answer E-006134/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

María do Céu Patrão Neves (PPE)

Subject: Public consultation on the POSEI fisheries programme (Regulation (EC) No 791/2007)

At a meeting on 8 May 2013 between the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Commissioner and MEPs from the outermost regions, the Commission announced its intention of holding a public consultation on the POSEI fisheries programme (Regulation (EC) No 791/2007 introducing a scheme to compensate for the additional costs incurred in the marketing of certain fishery products from the outermost regions), which is now in the process of being absorbed into the Commission proposal on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

Because the POSEI fisheries programme is intended specifically and solely for the outermost regions and therefore applies to only 3 (Portugal, France, and Spain) out of the 27 (and very soon 28) Member States, the arrangements for the forthcoming public consultation – assuming that it goes ahead – require particularly careful thought.

Bearing in mind that public consultations as a whole are a matter for the Commission:

- Can the Commission confirm that a public consultation will indeed take place? If so, why is it choosing to go down that road? When will the consultation be held?
- What will be the purpose of the public consultation? What points will be covered? Is it the case that there will be no consultation on the option of incorporating the POSEI fisheries programme into the proposed EMFF regulation, something which has already been categorically rejected by the Heads of Government and MEPs from the outermost regions?
- What weight will be given to contributions from Member States with ORs and, more generally, to contributions to the future legislative proposal?