

**Question for written answer E-006373/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Gabriel Mato Adrover (PPE)**

Subject: Fisheries agreement with Mauritania

On 29 May 2013 Parliament's Committee on Fisheries voted overwhelmingly against the EU-Mauritania fisheries protocol, in line with the position I took in my report. The result shows that the provisions of the protocol as it currently stands should be amended so that European vessels have to apply for permits to fish in Mauritanian waters.

I recognise the strategic importance of this agreement, in particular given that 12 Member States have an interest in the fishing grounds and that around 100 EU-registered vessels have access to these waters. The Mauritanian authorities should be duly informed that, if the technical provisions of the protocol are not improved, the agreement could be deemed null and void on grounds of underuse of fishing opportunities.

Can the Commission say how it intends to promote improvements to the technical and economic provisions of the protocol in order to make it economically viable for the fleet to fish in Mauritanian waters?