

Question for written answer E-002423/2014
to the Commission
Rule 117
Bendt Bendtsen (PPE)

Subject: Economic consequences of negotiations with Norway on fishing quotas

The current negotiations between the EU and Norway on fishing quotas in the North Sea and the Skagerrak are having major economic repercussions for fishermen in certain EU countries, who at this time of year catch up to 60% of their cod (for example) in Norwegian waters. At the same time the figures show that 2013 was the best year ever for Norwegian salmon producers by reason of the high prices on the Norwegian salmon exchanges and the expectations of a drop in production and catches.

1. Does the Commission consider that the Norwegian fishing industry should have better conditions for competitiveness than the EU fishing industry?
2. Why is the earlier agreement not being allowed to continue running until agreement has been reached?
3. Does the Commission have any plans to pay compensation to fishermen in the EU who are affected by the lack of an agreement and of access to Norwegian waters?
4. Does the Commission see a connection between admitting Norway to negotiations on fishing quotas and the increase in Norwegian customs duties on *Hydrangea macrophylla*, cheese and meat?