

**Question for written answer E-005904/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Sylvie Goddyn (NI) and Jean-Marie Le Pen (NI)

Subject: Impact of pulse trawling

Pulse trawling has in principle been banned in Europe since 1998. However, it was authorised on an experimental basis as an exemption for the Netherlands in 2006. This authorisation covered 5 % of the Dutch fleet at that time. By 2014, it affected 10 % of the fleet, and the specialist press is now talking about a figure of 20 %.

The development of this method of fishing is of concern to the fishermen of other North Sea countries, including France (via the Nord and Pas-de-Calais), as well as Belgium and the United Kingdom.

In fact, this form of fishing has a disastrous environmental impact, with adverse effects being seen on shark and ray, which are sensitive to electricity, but also on sole, sea dog, dab and, most seriously, on juveniles.

1. What is the scientific basis for the Commission's decision to continue with this exemption, given that there has not been a progress report or even a study delivered by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)?
2. Does the Commission envisage the suspension of this exemption, given that the *Comité national des pêches* [National Fisheries Committee] has declared it to be non-sustainable?