

**Question for written answer E-008963/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: EU-subsidised fisheries in Africa

The Commission recently gave its support to a project to develop commercial fisheries in several African countries. The Commission has decided to grant funding of EUR 5 million. The project will be managed by Worldfish, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources. This project involves 21 countries, including South Africa, Cameroun, Kenya, Niger and Nigeria. Funding is to be provided over four year, in order to boost Africa's share of commercial fisheries, which is still only 4.9 %. In the Union, however, fishermen face numerous regulatory difficulties and are prevented from freely pursuing their trade by European directives which seriously curb their potential. The project to ban discarding, for example, is yet another nail in the coffin of small-scale fisheries. The fisheries sector provides 400 000 jobs in the Union; in other words it is a strategic and vital sector.

Could the Commission grant the EUR 5 million in aid initially earmarked for Africa to Union fishermen via the European Fisheries Fund?