

**Question for written answer E-002915/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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and Pietro Fiocchi (ECR)**

Subject: Enlargement of the fishing zone in Libyan territorial waters accessible to EU fishermen

It would seem that under a private-sector agreement between Federpesca and the Libyan Military and Civil Works Investment Authority, Italian fishermen are now allowed to fish in Libyan waters without having their vessels impounded. This is the first agreement of its kind and could provide a legal framework for fishermen, and those from Sicily in particular. The first vessels sailing from the Sicilian port of Mazara del Vallo had moored in the Libyan port of Ras al Helal, as provided for in the agreement, but due to problems arising from the ongoing conflict between various Libyan factions, the fishermen decided – very responsibly – to return home, hence effectively placing the agreement on hold.

Can the Commission state whether, since the EU has exclusive competence for fisheries, particularly when it comes to concluding international agreements with third countries, and in the light of the substantial economic support provided to Libya since the outbreak of the civil war, it will bring forward a proposal to enlarge the fishing zone in Libyan territorial waters accessible to EU fishermen so that they can fish there lawfully and in safety?