Question for written answer E-004166/2019 to the Commission Rule 138 Sara Cerdas (S&D)

Subject: Renovating fishing boats in the outermost regions

Article 41 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund states that support for the replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines may be granted only for vessels in a similar or equivalent fleet segment and with the same engine power.

In this regard, we would like to ask the Commission:

Would it be possible, within the framework of Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, to put in place an engine replacement or modernisation system that would increase the engine's power without affecting previously established fishing quotas?

In the Commission's view, could a more powerful engine lead to energy efficiency gains, lower carbon emissions, higher productivity and, in general terms, greater environmental gains?