

**Question for written answer E-000368/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Clare Daly (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Irish fisheries and the implementation of the Working Time Directive

Ireland missed the transposition deadline of 15 November 2019 for Council Directive (EU) 2017/159 regarding the implementation of the Work in Fishing Convention.

The regulations transposing this directive were not introduced until 19 December 2019 and were unsatisfactory.

For example, Article 11 of the Directive provides that fishers' 'hours of work are limited to 48 hours a week on average, calculated over a reference period not exceeding 12 months'.

Statutory Instrument 672 of 2019 purports to transpose these rules into Irish law. However, Regulation 6 fails to specify any fixed reference period, depriving the regulation of legal effect and making it impossible to calculate average working hours for the purposes of assessing compliance in individual cases.

In addition, Statutory Instrument 709 of 2003 remains in force for non-Irish vessels in Ireland's jurisdiction. This instrument does not correct the calculation error and also omits the words 'a week' when stipulating the average. This renders the protection afforded by the provision ineffective.

Given the above, what action does the Commission propose to take to ensure that workers on fishing vessels operating in Ireland's jurisdiction are protected against overwork and exploitation, and that their rights under EU law are upheld?