

Question for written answer E-000597/2020
to the Council
Rule 138
Rosanna Conte (ID)

Subject: Compliance by the Council of the EU with the European Ombudsman's recommendation concerning the call for greater transparency in establishing TACs

On 25 October 2019, the European Ombudsman sent a recommendation to the Council of the European Union concerning the lack of transparency in the process leading to the setting of total allowable catches (Case 640/2019/FP).

Given that the decision-making process leading to the adoption of the TAC regulation can be deemed transparent only if the Council makes the relevant documents available, the Ombudsman, in her recommendation, calls on it to publish all the documents resulting from negotiations between the ministers responsible as soon as they are forwarded to the Member States or, in any case, as soon as possible.

Bearing in mind that European fisheries ministers have hitherto set TACs in meetings held 'in camera', taking decisions, moreover, which are crucial for the sustainability of fish stocks and jobs in European fishing communities, can the Council of the EU say:

1. whether it intends to comply with the European Ombudsman's recommendation concerning the provision of wider and more timely access to documents relating to the adoption of the TAC Regulation;
2. what other measures relating to increased transparency it will introduce to enable citizens and third parties with relevant expertise to provide input that can be taken into account in the decision-making process?