

**Question for written answer E-003240/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew)

Subject: Increase in the TAC for sardines for Gibraltar and Caminha

Scientific studies carried out by various bodies from Galicia and Portugal may lead one to think that the sardine is a species fished in Portuguese waters and in the Gulf of Cádiz. More tangibly, the Pelago20 study conducted by Portuguese scientists from the IPMA (*Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera*) has put biomass levels at the recovery target set for 2023, despite the fact that the fisheries management plan for the species was deemed 'non-precautionary'. This means that instead of the target of 269 958 tonnes set for fish aged over one year set for 2020, a total of 385 000 tonnes can now be caught in Gibraltar and Caminha. Based on these figures, the quota for the seine fleet fishing for sardines could be as high as 40 000 tonnes, as against the current quota of a little under 10 000 tonnes.

1. Is the Commission aware of the statistics from the Pelago20 study?
2. If the statistics for sardine stocks in the waters concerned are found to be correct, would the TAC for that species be revised?
3. What would the timescale be for that revision?