

**Question for written answer E-000471/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Peter van Dalen (PPE)**

Subject: Closure of the fish auction in Dunkirk (France)

Recently, a fish auction in Dunkirk (France) had to close. Some speculated reasons for that closure are:

a decline in landings of sole;

the fish auction in Dunkirk had less frequent sales days than larger fish auctions in the area and the larger ships therefore had to land their fish at these larger fish auctions, such as Boulogne;

and/or the use of pulse fishing equipment in nearby waters.

1. In the Commission's view, what is the reason for the closure of this fish auction?
2. We are seeing a trend towards the disappearance of some fish species from the coastal zone. This makes it more difficult for small-scale fishermen to catch these species. It is sometimes claimed that pulse fishing is partly responsible for this. Could the Commission call on the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) to investigate this and report back before summer 2021?