

**Question for written answer E-000594/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Izaskun Bilbao Barandica** (Renew)

Subject: Growing piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and protection of the EU fishing fleet

In recent months, European fishing vessels operating in the Atlantic Ocean have reported a rise in piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. So far, the majority of the attacks have been on merchant vessels, particularly oil tankers, but there have been cases of hostilities towards fishing vessels, which is fuelling concern in the sector. For the time being, most attacks take place at a short distance from the coast, which makes aggression towards fishing vessels less likely. However, the absence of organised protection and the increase in violence in the area could cause the situation to get worse.

1. Does the information available to the Commission lend credence to the alarm felt by the European fleet operating in the Atlantic?
2. Is any information available on the nature, origin and structure of the organisations carrying out the attacks?
3. Is a medium-term plan to implement solutions that have worked in other risky environments, such as the Indian Ocean, being contemplated?