

**Question for written answer E-000972/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Paul Tang (S&D)

Subject: State aid rules, Brexit adjustment reserve and fisheries

Under the Brexit adjustment reserve, EUR 130 million have been earmarked for Dutch fisheries. This should be spent on measures to help the sector adjust to the new relationship with the UK.

One possible way to spend these funds would be to make money available for fishermen and women to enable them to buy up their reduced fishing quotas on the market. This would allow them to keep their existing quotas for longer and thus prepare them for the loss of fishing rights to the UK.

1. Does spending from the Brexit adjustment reserve fall under the normal State aid rules or under the Temporary Framework for State aid measures to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak?
2. Would direct aid to fishermen and women to buy up their lost quotas on the market fall within these State aid rules?
3. Would direct aid to fishermen and women to buy up their lost quotas on the market be consistent with the purpose of the Brexit adjustment reserve?