

**Question for written answer E-001687/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Retroactive shortening of the duration of authorisations for economic activities in Spanish coastal areas

The Spanish Government has proposed a law which is about to complete its passage through parliament and which, if approved, would retroactively shorten the duration of authorisations granted for economic activities in Spanish coastal areas, a move which may be incompatible with the new EU guidelines on aquaculture. The Galician employers' association has estimated that 4 000 aquaculture companies (shellfish depurators, fish canners, fish processors, etc.) would be adversely affected by this change in the law¹.

The resulting legal uncertainty has already prompted many companies in the aquaculture sector to relocate outside Spain, on the grounds that the new law would make their activities unviable². The Galician Fisheries Confederation estimates that a dozen companies have recently left the Galician coast and moved to the north of Portugal.

As stated in the Commission's roadmap for updating EU strategic guidelines on aquaculture, the development of the aquaculture sector has been hampered by complicated administrative procedures and insufficient access to space. Member States have not made enough progress in these areas, prolonging EU overdependence on fishery products imported from third countries³.

Does the Commission consider that the change in the law proposed by the Spanish Government will promote the development of the aquaculture sector and, more generally, the sea-to-industry chain?

¹ <https://ceg.es/index.php/es/actualidad/la-ceg-insta-a-la-supresion-del-articulo-18-de-la-ley-de-cambio-climatico-a-favor-de-la>

² <https://www.farodevigo.es/mar/2021/03/25/crece-fuga-empresas-gallegas-ley-45818981.html>

³ Roadmap: Ares(2020)1736411