

**Question for written answer E-001722/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Grace O'Sullivan (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Support for small offshore islands in Ireland following European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund negotiations

Following recent negotiations over the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), provisions for the Irish offshore islands failed to be included in the final text, despite inclusion in the European Parliament's legislative resolution of 4 April 2019 (Amendment 269)¹.

Given the large benefit to this remote region, the low cost of the measure (the islands have around 2 700 inhabitants in total), and in the light of the stated aims of the common fisheries policy, which specifies that 'Small offshore islands which are dependent on fishing should, where appropriate, be especially recognised and supported in order to enable them to survive and prosper', the removal of this provision will have a disproportionate impact on Irish island small scale fishers and communities. The failure to include this provision runs counter to EMFAF Chapter III, Priority 3: 'Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture communities'.

1. Why was this provision for Irish islands not included in the EMFAF despite the recognition of support for islands as a priority?
2. What measures will the Commission now put in place to recognise and support these small offshore islands and local livelihoods?

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2019-0343_EN.html.