

**Question for written answer E-004634/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou (PPE)

Subject: Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by Turkish vessels in the Aegean

At the meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg on 11 October 2021, the Greek minister informed his counterparts about illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by Turkish vessels encroaching on Greek territorial waters in the Aegean.

This is affecting not only the fisheries sector but also the natural environment of the Aegean Sea, placing European fishermen at an unfair disadvantage, as it is undermining the sustainability of fish stocks, as well as the single market.

This encroachment on Greek and European waters reflects blatant disregard for the values of the Union, good neighbourly relations and the sovereignty of the Member States.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is therefore more than just a bilateral issue, relating as it does to compliance with the relevant regulation¹ and European law in general.

In view of this:

1. What action will the Commission take in response to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Aegean and to ensure compliance with the relevant regulation²?
2. How will it prevent any future recurrence of IUU fishing activities and encroachments by Turkey?

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32008R1005>

² Idem.