

**Question for written answer E-005346/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Developing fish leather in Europe

Known since the 16th century in Europe, fish leather can be produced by tanning the skin of most types of saltwater and freshwater fish, for example salmon, bass, perch, trout, sturgeon and carp. The skins can be collected from fish canning factories, fish farmers and breeders, fishmongers and restaurants.

There are a number of advantages to leather made from fish skin:

it recycles an item of food waste, transforming it into leather accessories (cuff links, assorted rings, earrings, and also shoes, bags, etc.);

it could provide a source of extra income for fish farmers and fish canning factories;

the tanning process captures the carbon dioxide that would have been emitted normally as the skin decomposed;

fish leather may also prove to be stronger than cow leather because of its crossed fibre structure;

lastly, it could help reduce the number of animals bred in some countries solely for their hide.

Will the Commission support the development of an EU fish leather industry and the research that will help expand the scope for its use?

**Supporter<sup>1</sup>**

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