Question for written answer E-000922/2022

to the Commission

Rule 138

Peter van Dalen (PPE), Jan Huitema (Renew), Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR), Annie Schreijer-Pierik (PPE)

Subject: Consequences of rising fuel prices for the fishing industry

In 2016 the Commission proposed allowing electric pulse fishing in the European Union. A majority in the European Parliament decided in mid-2021 to ban this innovative, selective and environmentally friendly fishing technique.

The fishing industry has had to contend with higher fuel prices for a good while now, and with Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, they have now hit record highs. Many fishers find that fishing is no longer profitable. Should they find themselves forced to stop fishing, millions of consumers both within and outside the EU would have to do without this high quality food. Food security could then no longer be guaranteed.

1. Is the Commission considering offering rapid emergency aid and establishing support measures to help fishers, thereby ensuring that fishers do not have to stop fishing, and if so, how will it do this?

2. In light of how fuel prices have already shot up and are continuing to do so, is the Commission ready to reconsider the re-introduction of energy efficient fishing tackle, such as the pulse trawl?

3. If not, can the Commission explain why it refuses to re-introduce electric pulse fishing, which has been proven to be a selective, energy saving and environmentally friendly fishing method, including in light of the Paris climate goals, and can the Commission explain as well why it is running the risk that fishers will have to stop fishing because of extremely high energy prices?