

**Question for written answer E-001001/2022/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: European strategy within the IOTC to defend the interests of our fleet in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans

At the 2021 meeting of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the EU advocated a reduction in European catches of yellowfin tuna (YFT) of 20% compared to 2014 levels. As a result, the Union is the only contracting party obliged to reduce its catches by 21%, compared to 13%, 12% and 10% reductions for other contracting parties. Six contracting parties have objected to IOTC Resolution 21/01 and will not have to reduce their catches or will not apply minimum reductions. In the draft motion for a resolution to limit skipjack catches (SKJ) in the Indian Ocean drawn up for the 2022 IOTC meeting, it is proposed that the EU should be one of the contracting parties obliged to reduce its catches of this species as well.

1. What is the Commission's strategy as leader of delegation to the IOTC?
2. What measures does it intend to take with regard to the countries objecting to IOTC Resolution 21/01?
3. How does the Commission intend to defend the position of the European fleet in the Atlantic and Indian oceans vis-à-vis countries flagging new tuna freezer vessels while ignoring the resolutions and recommendations adopted by regional fisheries organisations?