

**Question for written answer E-003720/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE)**

**Subject:** Request for an opinion from the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries on the review of the ban on bottom fishing

On 10 October, the Commission's Deputy Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries presented Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1614<sup>1</sup> to the European Parliament's Committee on Fisheries, a regulation which bans bottom fishing in 87 areas of the Atlantic Ocean.

During the exchange of views with MEPs, the deputy director-general said that the Commission was open to a review of this ban, depending on the new opinion of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), which is expected to be made public on 16 December.

Pursuant to Article 9(6) of the 2016 Deep Sea Fisheries Regulation<sup>2</sup>, the Commission must review annually, on the basis of advice received from the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), the list of areas where vulnerable marine ecosystems are known to occur or are likely to occur.

Has the Commission already sought the mandatory opinion of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries on the ban on bottom fishing?

Submitted: 15.11.2022

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1614 of 15 September 2022 determining the existing deep-sea fishing areas and establishing a list of areas where vulnerable marine ecosystems are known to occur.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/2336 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 establishing specific conditions for fishing for deep-sea stocks in the north-east Atlantic and provisions for fishing in international waters of the north-east Atlantic and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 2347/2002.