

**Question for written answer E-003721/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE)

Subject: Socio-economic impact of the ban on bottom fishing in 87 areas

Recently, the President of the Spanish National Federation of Fishermen's Associations, Basilio Otero, told the media that the first consequences of the ban on bottom fishing in 87 areas of the north-east Atlantic were already being felt¹.

Otero stated that catches by bottom-set longline vessels (line-caught hake) had almost fallen 'by half' and that fishing trips were getting longer. He said that the reduction was of a magnitude such that vessels which previously were arriving in port with 12 000, 15 000 or 16 000 kg of fish were now arriving with 6 000, 7 000 or 8 000 kg.

On 20 October 2022, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1614² was debated in by the European Parliament in plenary. During this debate, Commissioner Helena Dalli, speaking on behalf of the Commission, said in relation to the socio-economic impact of the measure:

'The Commission has asked the Spanish administration several times to share its assessment on the socio-economic impact, which so far we have seen only indifferent figures quoted in the press. So we now look forward to receiving their formal assessment soon.'

Has the Commission received the above-mentioned socio-economic impact assessment from the Spanish Government?

Submitted: 15.11.2022

¹ <https://www.farodevigo.es/mar/2022/11/11/capturas-palangre-cayeron-mitad-veto-78412325.html>

² Commission Implementing Regulation 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.