

Question for written answer E-003818/2022
to the Council
Rule 138
Sarah Wiener (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Presence of farmers' association COPA-COGECA at AGRIFISH (Agriculture and Fisheries Council) meetings

AGRIFISH legislates in areas related to food production, rural development and fisheries management. For political decision-making processes and at the AGRIFISH meetings of the European Council, it is therefore important to receive insights and reports from the agricultural sector in order to have an accurate picture of the current challenges and to be able to target political discussions. Inviting COPA-COGECA to be the sole presenter before these meetings does not represent the diverse farming and fishing industry and the various farmer organisations and interest groups in the EU. The assessments of small farmers, organic associations and environmental stakeholders should also be heard. Against the backdrop of the multiple challenges and the systemic crises that our complex agricultural and food system is facing, a broad perspective is needed to find solutions.

1. How does the Council justify the dominant participation of COPA-COGECA at the AGRIFISH meetings?
2. Does the Council believe that representatives from the agriculture sector should continue to give speeches before AGRIFISH meetings?
3. What is the Council's position on allowing other agricultural and environmental groups to speak and on broadening the range of speakers before meetings?

Submitted: 23.11.2022