

**Question for written answer E-001053/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE)

Subject: The EU's over-reliance on seafood from third countries

In its 'Strategic Guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021-2030', the Commission states that in 2020 the EU imported over 70 % of the seafood it consumed¹.

In its resolution of 4 October 2022 on striving for a sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture: the way forward, the European Parliament points out that the external trade imbalance in aquatic products produced in the Union is unacceptable, both from an economic point of view, given the trade deficit that this entails, and from a social point of view, given the missed opportunities for employment².

In view of this situation:

1. What are the latest statistics on the importation and consumption of seafood from third countries? How has the trend that emerged in 2021 and 2022 developed since?
2. What measures is the Commission considering to reduce the EU's over-reliance on seafood from third countries?

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¹ COM(2021) 236 final.

² P9_TA(2022)0334.