

**Question for written answer E-001531/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Elisabetta Gualmini (S&D)

Subject: Limits on bottom trawling in the EU

The package of measures on the sustainability and resilience of fisheries and aquaculture presented by the Commission on 21 February 2023 includes an action plan for the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems. Under the plan, trawling in all marine protected areas (Natura 2000 sites) would be phased out by 2030, drastically shrinking areas available for trawling.

This ban would have a major impact on the European fisheries sector as a whole, from both an employment perspective (tens of thousands of jobs would be affected) and a production perspective (trawling accounts for 25% of landings of seafood in the EU). What is more, a drop in domestic production of fishery products would provide a boost to exports from third countries, which are not bound by the same standards.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission plan to publish an impact study to support the action plan for the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems?
2. How will it compensate for the negative impacts of the elimination of bottom trawling, particularly for employment, food quality and the restaurant and tourism sector as a whole?

Submitted: 10.5.2023