

**Question for written answer E-001645/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Maxette Pirbakas (NI)**

**Subject:** Withdrawal of authorisation given to France to grant state aid for renewal of the fishing fleet in the ORs

The Commission has just banned France from granting state aid for the renewal of fishing vessels in its outermost regions (ORs) as punishment for its failure to comply with Article 114c of the Guidelines.

Fishing in the French ORs is undergoing a dramatic collapse. In Martinique, the number of fishermen has fallen since 2017 from 1 100 to 450. The Guadeloupe fleet is half what it was 20 years ago.

Traditional fishing, which is what is most commonly practised, is nevertheless a model to follow, since its low impact on fish stocks is indisputable, and the existence of short supply chains, in regions affected by unemployment and which import the bulk of their food, has a very positive social impact. The overfishing that is sometimes found is rarely caused by vessels based in ports in the ORs.

Given the extreme fragility of the fisheries sector in the ORs:

1. What does the Commission intend to do to support the renewal of the fishing fleet if the French state persists in being unable to fulfil its reporting obligations?
2. Will it take other measures to support the fishing fleet in the ORs?

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