

**Question for written answer E-002042/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew)

Subject: Amendment of Council Decision 90/655/EEC of 4 December 1990 concerning cod fishing in the Svalbard archipelago

Until German reunification, fishing opportunities for cod in Svalbard were allocated pursuant to Council Decision 87/277/EEC of 18 May 1987. As a result of that process of self-determination, the decision was amended by Council Decision 90/655/EEC of 4 December 1990. This text has since been used unchanged until Brexit took place in 2021. The Commission has subsequently proposed new allocation criteria, but the rules have not yet been adapted to reflect the UK's departure despite requests from several Member States to do so.

- (1) Can the Commission say whether there are any plans to amend the current rules, which still include the United Kingdom?
- (2) Does the Commission consider the amendment made to be fair, neutral and objective when, despite the increase in the TAC, this increase is not shared equally among the Member States concerned?
- (3) If a new regulation is put forward, will it take the principle of relative stability into account and will the rights set out under the current regulation remain unchanged?

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