

**Question for written answer E-002234/2023/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Izaskun Bilbao Barandica** (Renew)

Subject: Negotiations on zero tariff tuna imports from the Maldives

In some states in the Indian Ocean region, including the Maldives, smear campaigns have been targeting the fishing activities of the European fleet, whose sustainability is guaranteed by fisheries agreements as well as the rules governing the CFP's external dimension. While Maldivian representatives in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission have opposed the EU's proposals on stock management (Fish Aggregating Devices, yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and skipjack tuna), they have put forward technically unfeasible and scientifically unfounded alternatives with the support of NGOs that have controversial ties with the oil, gas and plastics industries. At the same time, the Maldivian authorities are working to join the Partnership Agreement with the OACPS countries, and in their bilateral meetings with the EU External Action Service they proposed lifting tariffs on their tuna exports to our market.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission believe that this situation is reasonable?
2. Are DG MARE and the EEAS working together to assert the interests of our fleet in international trade negotiations?

Submitted: 17.7.2023