

**Question for written answer E-002239/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

João Pimenta Lopes (The Left)

Subject: Support to renew the fleet of small-scale, inshore and artisanal fishing vessels

On a recent visit to the Autonomous Region of Madeira, I observed the growing challenges faced by the small-scale, inshore and artisanal fishing fleet. Of particular concern is the need to renew the vessels, especially vessels for black scabbardfish, which has to be fished further and further away. The crew, who can spend up to 15 days at sea at a time, work in extremely vulnerable conditions.

EMFAF funding earmarked to modernise facilities on board is hard to obtain and is not very attractive in this particular case, where it is not sensible or feasible to modernise vessels that are structurally obsolete.

Besides that, Portugal's low tuna quotas, which are quickly used up, affect artisanal pole and line fishing in the region.

Fishers' incomes are also low.

Funds are needed to renew the fleet, so that the country can manage its marine resources and increase its income from fisheries.

I would therefore ask:

1. Would the Commission allow changes to the EMFAF that, in addition to making it easier for small-scale, inshore and artisanal fisheries to access the fund, would enable larger-scale structural interventions that include full renewal of vessels?
2. What other types of support can be provided for the segments of the fleet in question to help them overcome the challenges they face?

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