Question for written answer E-002265/2023/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 138
Caroline Roose (Verts/ALE), **Pascal Durand** (S&D), **Grace O'Sullivan** (Verts/ALE), **Anja Hazekamp** (The Left), **Jutta Paulus** (Verts/ALE), **Francisco Guerreiro** (Verts/ALE), **Ska Keller** (Verts/ALE), **Ville Niinistö** (Verts/ALE), **Aurore Lalucq** (S&D)

Subject: Monitoring the effective enforcement of bottom trawling rules in the Mediterranean

In February 2023, the Commission presented an action plan recognising the need to phase out bottom trawling in all marine protected areas by 2030 in order to protect and restore seabed ecosystems. EU legislation already restricts bottom trawling in some marine areas, for example in sensitive habitats of the Mediterranean Sea under Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006[1]. However, as has been highlighted by the European Court of Auditors, fisheries monitoring in the Mediterranean Member States is weak. For the period since 2015, can the Commission indicate:

1. The number and timing of audits and checks by DG MARE, as provided for in Title X of Regulation (EC) 1224/2009[2], regarding the specific implementation of the trawling restrictions in protected areas under the Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 and applicable General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) recommendations?

2. What compliance measures have been taken following the identification by the Commission of possible shortcomings in the effective implementation by Mediterranean Member States of the above-mentioned trawling restrictions?

Supporter[3]

Submitted: 19.7.2023

[1] Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 of 21 December 2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean Sea (OJ L 409, 30.12.2006, p. 11).
[2] Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy (OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 1).
[3] This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE)