

**Question for written answer E-002308/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Maria da Graça Carvalho (PPE), Paulo Rangel (PPE), José Manuel Fernandes (PPE), Lúcia Pereira (PPE), Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar (PPE), Carlos Coelho (PPE)

Subject: EU support for small-scale fisheries on the path to climate neutrality

The Commission communication on the energy transition in EU fisheries claims that investment frameworks, funding and financing possibilities are key for enabling the transition. The EMFAF in particular can support investment in actions to advance the transition. A new report by ClientEarth, however, shows that small-scale fishers receive the least EU funds. Just 20 % of EMFAF funds (2014-2021) spent on EU fishing fleets went to small-scale fisheries, while 80 % of funding went to large-scale fisheries.

Small-scale fishing accounts for around 80 % of the EU's active vessels and has, or can have, less impact on the marine environment and biodiversity than large-scale fishing. It also offers socio-economic advantages for coastal communities and employs more people on board per tonne of fish produced.

1. How does the Commission intend to guarantee fair access to funding for fleets' energy transition – for smaller fleets in particular?
2. What information has the Commission received from Member States about how funds are used, the types of investments funded and which fishing vessels they go to? Is such information publicly available?

Submitted: 20.7.2023