

**Question for written answer E-002359/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Article 17 of the CFP Regulation as a tool to support the energy transition of EU fisheries

The Commission communication on the Energy Transition of the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector<sup>1</sup> states that the common fisheries policy (CFP) can support the energy transition.

Under Article 17 of the CFP Regulation<sup>2</sup>, the Member States must use transparent and objective criteria, including those of an environmental, social and economic nature, when allocating fishing opportunities. They must also endeavour to provide incentives to fishing vessels deploying selective gear or using techniques with a reduced environmental impact<sup>3</sup>.

However, the Member States are falling short with regard to using Article 17 to incentivise climate-neutral fishing<sup>4</sup>. No Member State uses energy consumption as a criterion. Generally, small-scale fisheries (SSFs) are less emissions-intensive<sup>5</sup>, have a lower environmental impact and are more selective than large-scale fisheries. Nevertheless, they represent only 8 % of gross tonnage and around 5 % of landings, despite making up 76 % of active vessels and employing 50 % of the crew in the EU.

1. How is the Commission promoting the proper implementation of Article 17 to support the energy transition of EU fisheries towards climate neutrality, including through incentivising a reduced environmental impact (in terms of energy consumption and habitat damage)?
2. Is it considering promoting more equitable access to fish resources for SSFs as part of the energy transition of EU fisheries?

**Supporter<sup>6</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Commission communication of 21 February 2023 on the Energy Transition of the EU Fisheries and Aquaculture sector (COM(2023)0100): [https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-02/COM-2023-100\\_en.pdf](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-02/COM-2023-100_en.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22).

<sup>3</sup> A reduced environmental impact includes reduced energy consumption or habitat damage.

<sup>4</sup> Environmental and social criteria are hardly used, and few incentives are given to fishing vessels deploying selective fishing gear or using fishing techniques with a reduced environmental impact.

<sup>5</sup> Per kg and per the value (in euros) of landings.

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