

**Question for written answer E-002530/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Clara Aguilera (S&D)

Subject: Conflict between Spanish fishing vessels and Gibraltarian authorities

Since the conclusion of the fisheries agreement between the EU and Morocco on 17 July 2023, fishing vessels in the Gulf of Cádiz operating near the Rock of Gibraltar have faced constant harassment from the authorities of the Government of Gibraltar, a British colony now considered a third country by the EU.

The fisheries sector in La Línea de la Concepción (Cádiz) has been fishing in those waters for entire lifetimes without any problems. However, in recent years, Gibraltar's authorities have asserted that the waters are their own and that Spanish vessels cannot fish there, and they have sent out patrol vessels to hound Spanish vessels.

It is not the first time that incidents of this kind have taken place. What is more, they are happening at a time when, in the absence of an agreement with Morocco, fishers have to fish more in those waters.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. Is the Commission aware of the state of affairs that fishers are facing in the Gulf of Cádiz?
2. What steps can the Commission take, in cooperation with the Spanish Government, to protect them?

Submitted: 4.9.2023