

ORAL QUESTION H-0111/03

for Question Time at the part-session in March 2003

pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure

by Enrico Ferri

to the Commission

Subject: Request for recognition of the environmental compatibility of fishing for transparent goby

Fishing for transparent goby is carried out in the sea off Livorno, at present by way of derogation from Regulation (EC) 1626/94<sup>1</sup>. The derogation is due to expire on 31 December 2003. Since official research carried out by the Italian Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry Policy indicates that this kind of activity has no adverse effect on the environment, does the Commission not consider that it should intervene and recognise this type of fishing as an authorised activity compatible with the Community legislation in question? In view of the latest guidelines on fisheries policy and since it has been ascertained that this kind of fishing and the fishing gear used - the 'sciabichello' (small trawl-net) - do not in any way jeopardise environmental protection and the conservation of a particular species, does the Commission not consider that it should declare this activity lawful, not least because the uncertainty and insecurity caused by the extension of a derogation already granted are damaging fishing in the Livorno area? If it is not already aware of the problem, can the Commission assure Parliament that it will tackle the issue as a matter of urgency and report back to Parliament without delay?

Tabled: 20.02.2003

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 171, 6.7.1994, p. 1.