

ORAL QUESTION H-0570/05
for Question Time at the part-session in September I 2005
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Marie-Hélène Aubert
to the Commission

Subject: 'Darwin's Nightmare' (intensive fishing of Nile perch in Lake Victoria)

The documentary 'Darwin's Nightmare' by the Austrian director Hubert Sauper, currently being screened in France, raises many questions regarding the management of European development funds in Africa.

In the space of a few years, intensive fishing of the Nile perch, an EU-subsidised activity, has ravaged a whole ecosystem by progressively killing off all the others species of fish, and destroyed the traditional fabric of society around Lake Victoria. The fish no longer end up on local stalls, but are taken to factories, from which thousands of carefully filleted portions are flown daily to Europe. At the same time, the press reports famine in Tanzania and food aid, and the situation described in this film is terrible.

If the facts reported in this documentary are inaccurate, they should be responded to. If they are true, can the Commission explain the decision-making process which led to these absurd and intolerable situations, and take steps to remedy them?

Tabled: 24.06.2005
fr