

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0111/05
pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure
by Philippe Morillon, on behalf of the Committee on Fisheries
to the Commission

Subject: EU sanctions in the fisheries sector

Sanctions must be imposed wherever serious violations of EU fisheries rules and regulations occur.

EU Member States currently deal with 86% of all serious offences in the sector by means of administrative sanctions, 14% thereof result in criminal proceedings.

Does the Commission share the view that:

1. sanctions and penalties in the fisheries sector in all EU Member States must be proportionate to the offences committed,
2. sanctions must be fair and non-discriminatory as between nationals and non-nationals,
3. the level of sanctions applicable for similar offences must be consistent in all Member States,
4. all minor fishery offences should be decriminalised?

Furthermore, would the Commission opt for administrative or criminal sanctions in the case of conduct that seriously infringes the rules of the common fisheries policy?

Will the Commission also review the entire issue of sanctions in the fisheries sector as a matter of urgency and consider proposing an approach which is more harmonised than the current approach?

Tabled: 02.12.2005

Forwarded: 06.12.2005

Deadline for reply: 13.12.2005