

**Question for oral answer O-000034/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 136

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on behalf of the Committee on Fisheries

Subject: Climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture in the EU

On 24 February, the Commission adopted a communication entitled 'Forging a climate-resilient Europe – the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change', which sets out how the EU can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate-resilient by 2050. Adaptation measures are crucial to tackle the effects of a changing climate by building resilient societies that are able to minimise the adverse impacts. The strategy specifically underlines the need to promote adaptation measures in key vulnerable sectors such as fisheries and aquaculture. Both sectors are vital to the livelihoods and cultural heritage of many coastal communities in the Union, especially where small-scale coastal fishing plays an important role.

With the average age in many fishing communities being over 50, generational renewal and the diversification of activities remain a challenge, and the unavoidable negative impacts of climate change and related job losses pose a serious threat. In this context, we would welcome answers to the following questions:

1. What measures will the Commission propose to foster climate-resilient fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the EU? In particular, as the proposed strategy does not provide for any legally binding targets and objectives, what concrete goals and targets are envisaged to measure progress?
2. In the context of its assessment on the functioning of the common fisheries policy (CFP), how will the Commission cover the aspect of climate resilience, i.e. how the CFP caters for climate change mitigation and adaptation? What concrete measures are envisaged to address, mitigate and counteract the negative impacts and likely job losses in climate-affected sectors such as fisheries and aquaculture? What proposals will the Commission submit to the co-legislators to make these sectors climate-resilient?
3. What proposals will the Commission bring forward to integrate climate-resilience considerations into the management of resources such as fisheries (jointly managed with other partners) or the protection of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdictions, i.e. those governed by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea? How will the Commission engage with regional fisheries management organisations in this regard to promote climate resilience?

Submitted: 12.5.2021

Lapses: 13.8.2021