Question for oral answer O-000015/2023
to the Commission
Rule 136
Pierre Karleskind
on behalf of the Committee on Fisheries

Subject: Towards a strong and sustainable EU algae sector

On 15 November 2022, the Commission presented the communication entitled 'Towards a Strong and Sustainable EU Algae Sector' (COM(2022)0592), which describes not only the increased demand for seaweed and algae products in the EU, but also the subsequent potential for the EU to meet this growing demand via domestic production, as long as the sector is developed in a sustainable way. The communication also outlines the importance of cutting 'red tape' and of establishing a fit-for-purpose regulatory framework for this sector to enable it to fulfil its economic potential while also ensuring its environmental sustainability.

The Commission had previously proposed, in its communication entitled 'Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030' (COM(2021)0236), that Member States should set up 'one-stop shops' for actors who wish to invest in the aquaculture sector in order to make the authorisation process easier. This idea was not included in the latest communication from the Commission.

In the light of the above, the Committee on Fisheries asks the following questions:

1.   Would the Commission consider taking further steps to ensure a simple and appropriate regulatory framework for the EU algae sector, such as encouraging the Member States to set up one-stop shops for actors interested in investing in this sector?

2.   Would the Commission consider taking further steps if Member States do not act to ensure that the potential for the sustainable development of the EU algae sector is fulfilled?

3.   Given that funding is important for harnessing the sector's potential, what actions will the Commission take to ensure that the Member States set aside, from the available EU funding, adequate funding for the development of the EU algae sector?

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Lapses: 1.7.2023