

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0702/04
by Daniel Varela Suanzes-Carpegna (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Greenland halibut recovery: extraordinary measures to be adopted by the Commission

In its reply of 27 November to my question P-3264/03¹, the Commission said that a working party was being set up within the Directorate-General on Fisheries to study all the implications of the decisions adopted at the annual NAFO meeting in 2003 for the Community fleet.

On 19 January, the Director-General answered my question in the Fisheries Commission concerning Mr McGuire's new scientific reports - which contradicted previous NAFO reports - by saying that the Commission would study them. Fresh meetings with the scientists have recently been held in Madrid.

What is the current state of affairs with regard to this issue?

Is the Commission going to take the new reports into account at the June and September 2004 NAFO meetings, so as better to defend the EU's fishing interests?

What concrete plans does the Commission have, and what measures does it intend to take to help the fleet affected by the NAFO decisions of 2003 on Greenland halibut?

¹ OJ C