

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3467/04  
by Sérgio Ribeiro (GUE/NGL)  
to the Commission

Subject: Fisheries - Portugal - TAC and quotas for 2005

Fishermen and businesses linked to the fishing industry in Portugal have reacted with great concern to rumours and reports in the media concerning the measures now being drawn up in connection with TACs and quotas for 2005. If these reports prove to be accurate, the economic and social impact will be considerable.

As a Portuguese Member of Parliament I have investigated the matter and have received accounts of reactions to this situation. I have found that the industry understands the need to maintain and strengthen the balance between the economic and social role played by fishing and the safeguarding of resources and the environment, including the possibility of reducing fishing activity from 27 to 24 days (as is the case in Spain). I have been particularly shocked by two factors:

- the drastic scale of the measures announced;
- the industry's fear that it will be faced with a fait accompli.

Can the Commission provide specific information, as a matter of urgency, on the accuracy of media reports: a reduction in fishing days from 27 to 20 days per month, and quota reductions of up to 23% in the case of mackerel (and 20% for horse mackerel, sole, anchovy and monkfish)?