

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2500/06  
by Duarte Freitas (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Unequal competition in the fishing industry

Following your letter of 1 September 2005 in reply to my question of 18 July 2005 on possible aid for fishermen in response to oil price rises (P-2743/05), I should like to request further clarification on this matter.

The Commission recently authorised Member State governments to provide support for their fishing fleets with the aim of alleviating the serious problem posed by the energy crisis which has severely penalised the Community fishing industry.

This measure has now led to a situation where there are some fishermen who are supported by their governments and others who do not receive any aid at all.

This has created a situation of clearly unequal competition between fishermen from countries which are supporting their fishing industry (such as Spain and France) and others which do not (such as Portugal and Malta).

1. Will the Fisheries Commissioner review the situation of unequal competition which has been created, bearing in mind that there is allegedly a common fisheries policy for the industry?
2. Will the Commission shoulder the damage caused to fishermen from countries where no support has been received from their governments?