

**Question for written answer P-003231/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

María do Céu Patrão Neves (PPE)

Subject: Discontinuation of the POSEI Fisheries programme (Regulation (EC) No 791/2007)

Article 8 of the Regulation introducing a scheme to compensate for the additional costs incurred in the marketing of certain fishery products from the outermost regions (Regulation (EC) No 791/2007) stipulates that 'by 31 December 2011, the Commission shall on the basis of an independent evaluation, report to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee on the implementation of the compensation, accompanied, where necessary, by legislative proposals'.

The Commission has not yet complied with this requirement laid down in the POSEI Fisheries Regulation. It nevertheless took the initiative to discontinue the programme, incorporating it into the proposal for a European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (2011/0380 (COD)). This means that the regulation that was previously geared exclusively to the outermost regions of three Member States will in future be treated in exactly the same way as any of the four remaining regulations that have also now been incorporated into the EMFF, covering all the Member States. Moreover, the Commission is intending to sacrifice positive discrimination in favour of the outermost regions, which is enshrined in the Treaties, in the interests of simplifying the regulations.

1. How does the Commission justify the delay of one year and three months in submitting its report pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 791/2007? When will it submit this report? Will the report be accompanied by a legislative proposal?
2. What was the basis for the Commission's proposal to discontinue the POSEI Fisheries programme?
3. Did this proposal stem from an initiative of the Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, or from an initiative of the College of Commissioners? Given that POSEI Agriculture is to continue, what justification is there for taking a different line in the case of fisheries?
4. Has the Commission weighed up the present and future political and economic consequences of its proposal to end the positive discrimination to which the outermost regions are entitled under Article 299 of the Treaty?
5. What significance will the Commission attach to Parliament's assessment of the report which it still has to submit?