

**Question for written answer P-006812/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

María do Céu Patrão Neves (PPE)

Subject: Retabling of questions on the POSEI Fisheries programme (Regulation (EC) No 791/2007)

On 21 March 2013 I tabled a priority written question to the Commission (P-003231/2013) on the discontinuation of the POSEI Fisheries programme (Regulation (EC) No 791/2007). I received an answer from Commissioner Damanaki on 4 June 2013. The question contained five specific subquestions, some of which were divided into separate points. The answer, however, addressed only the second question, and all the remaining questions were left unanswered.

Moreover, the answer contained a regrettable inconsistency: the Commission stated that 'when preparing its proposals (...) the Commission took advantage of the (...) independent evaluation', and that POSEI Fisheries was integrated into the EMFF 'to simplify its implementation by the Member States and to increase efficiency'. This contradicts the independent evaluation report, which described this compensation scheme for the outermost regions as 'relevant', 'consistent' and 'effective', with a 'reasonable' administrative burden.

The third paragraph of the answer is also incomprehensible, since it is unclear which approach the Commission will take: integrating POSEI Fisheries into the EMFF or maintaining a separate regulation as in the case of POSEI Agriculture.

I am therefore reiterating the following questions:

- How does the Commission justify the extremely long delay in submitting its report pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 791/2007? What significance will it attach to Parliament's assessment of the report?
- Did this proposal stem from an initiative of the Commissioner for 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?
- 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?

Further:

- Since the independent report concludes that the scheme is 'reasonable' from an administrative point of view, on what grounds does the Commission wish to 'simplify' it?
- Will the Commission opt to integrate POSEI Fisheries into the EMFF, or to maintain a separate regulation as in the case of POSEI Agriculture?