

**Question for written answer P-002924/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Dolores García-Hierro Caraballo (S&D)

Subject: Labelling of fishery products

As is stated in an amendment tabled during the adoption of the Regulation on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products, the catch date shown on the label of fishery products provides objective information on the freshness of such products, or in other words on the 'net to plate' period. Indicating the catch date would benefit small-scale fishermen and aquaculture operators in the EU, who market their products through short supply chains, and promote local consumption. It would also help create a level playing field for those products without adversely affecting other sections of the EU fleet, such as the long-distance fleet. The catch date is of particular value to consumers, as it enables them to select which fishery products to buy in full knowledge of the facts.

Moreover, indicating the catch date entails no additional burden for the fisheries sector, as it is already one of the traceability requirements under the Fisheries Control Regulation. Traceability is supposed to ensure that information is available at every stage of the marketing chain: production, processing, wholesaling, distribution and retailing. However, the catch date is not displayed for the consumer to see. This could be done simply by extracting the information from the traceability chain and inserting it on the label.

Does the Commission not see a need to again propose that including this information in the labelling of fishery products be made a requirement?

Does it not consider that making this compulsory would be beneficial for consumer protection and public health?