

**Priority question for written answer P-003976/2019**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Rosanna Conte (ID)**

**Subject:** Damage to the Italian fishing industry due to severe weather

In recent weeks, repeated episodes of bad weather have swept across Italy and its islands, causing serious damage to its fishing industry.

From an initial survey of the fishing fleets affected, it is estimated that the losses in just one week - between lost earnings and problems affecting fishing and aquaculture facilities - amount to EUR 60 million. The figure could increase if account is taken of the number of fishing days lost (1 fishing boat out of 3 had to remain in port), the silted up ports and damage to boat hulls.

It is small-scale fishing that has borne the brunt of the damage, especially on the north Adriatic coast, where clam fishing has also been heavily damaged.

Given the huge losses and the frequency of these meteorological events and given that the National Solidarity Fund for the sector in the event of natural disasters has been without funds for years, will the Commission say:

1. Will it ensure support for Italian fisheries and aquaculture through exceptional financial instruments and studies that highlight the impact of climate change on the sector?
2. Will it support the proposal of the new EMFF (A) 2021-27 to support fishermen and fish farmers who have suffered losses as a result of natural disasters?