

**Priority question for written answer P-004464/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Rosanna Conte (ID)

Subject: Derogation from minimum size rules for Italian clams: notification deadlines

On 28 August 2019, the Commission submitted a Delegated Regulation establishing a discard plan for Venus shells (Venus spp.) in certain Italian territorial waters [C (2019) 6197]. In the wake of scientific evidence, this delegated act grants Italy a one-year derogation with regard to the minimum size of clams, between 22 and 25mm.

The deadline for submitting any objections is 28 December 2019. Should no adverse opinion be given by that date, the derogation may enter into force in Italy on 1 January 2020.

The Italian Government will await a communication from the Commission in order to proceed with the ministerial decree which will allow the sector to apply the derogation.

Given the time of the year in which the deadline falls, Italian clam fishermen are expressing concerns about the future of their work in the first few months of the year.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

Within what time frame will it notify Italy of the derogation?

Has any provision been made for specific measures or simplified procedures to avoid the belated implementation of the delegated act, given that this, obviously, would damage the sector?