

**Priority question for written answer P-000726/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**France Jamet (ID), Herve Juvin (ID), H el ene Laporte (ID)**

Subject: The giant trawler 'Margiris'

On 3 February 2022, 300 kilometres off the coast of La Rochelle the giant trawler Margiris shed tens of thousands of dead blue whiting into the sea by in circumstances that remain unclear.

The second largest trawler in the world, the Margiris is 143 metres long and can catch up to 250 tonnes of fish per day.

Although it flies the Lithuanian flag, this huge industrial trawler lands in the Netherlands, where its owner's headquarters are located.

Other similar vessels (the Afrika, the Joseph Roty, the Zeeland, the Scombrus, etc.) are regularly proven to be guilty of crimes against the environment, yet they continue to operate in the Bay of Biscay. This is why they are persona non grata in several countries.

1. Since it sees fit to define fisheries as an exclusive EU competence, will the Commission at last provide objective criteria for defining 'super trawlers', together with an impact assessment on marine resources?
2. On the basis of these criteria, will the Commission consider banning 'super trawlers' from EU waters in order to comply with the sustainable fishing criteria advocated by the European Union?

**Supporter<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Annika Bruna (ID)