

**Priority question for written answer P-001098/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Bernd Lange (S&D)**

**Subject:** Consequences of the EU action plan for sustainable and resilient fisheries for shrimping in Lower Saxony

On 21 February 2023, the Commission submitted proposals for sustainable fisheries, including an action plan for a phased ban on bottom fishing in all existing and new marine protected areas by 2030. That will have an impact on fishers and their communities, but above all on traditional shrimping in Lower Saxony, which is not only an important sector of the economy, but also a cultural asset. Unlike with industrial-style fishing, shrimpers use lighter nets that are less harmful to the seabed. A ban on bottom fishing in all existing and new marine protected areas would probably mean the end of shrimping in Lower Saxony.

1. What exactly does the Commission plan to do as regards bottom fishing, and what is the timetable for implementation?
2. Has the Commission already carried out an impact assessment for specific sectors such as shrimping?
3. In what way do the Commission's plans take account of the difference between industrial fishing and traditional shrimping, and are there plans for exemptions or variations as regards the long-term ban on bottom fishing in all existing and new marine protected areas?

Submitted: 30.3.2023