

**Priority question for written answer P-000254/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Emergency measure adopted by France to ban fishing in the Bay of Biscay

An 'emergency measure' adopted by the French authorities under Article 13(1) of the CFP Regulation entered into force on 22 January 2024. Aimed at protecting small cetaceans, it establishes a one-month ban on fishing in the Bay of Biscay by Member State fishers using certain types of fishing gear in that area.

This decision appears to have been taken without complying with the formal requirements laid down in the CFP Regulation<sup>1</sup>, which stipulate that the Commission, the relevant Member States and the relevant Advisory Councils must be consulted on the measure at least one month in advance.

This measure will lead to significant losses for fishers and the food industry, and will affect fish supplies and prices. If it continues, it could set a negative precedent for the fisheries sector.

1. Did the French Government consult the Commission, the relevant Member States and the relevant Advisory Councils in good time, in accordance with the CFP Regulation?
2. If not, what measures will the Commission take to amend or repeal the measure?
3. Does the Commission know how many vessels are affected and does it intend to put in place measures to compensate for the damage caused to the sector?

Submitted: 29.1.2024

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<sup>1</sup> Article 13(2) of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation.