

**Priority question for written answer P-000746/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**François-Xavier Bellamy (PPE)**

Subject: Discriminatory and disproportionate closures of fishing areas in the United Kingdom

The UK has announced that it intends to close 4 000 km<sup>2</sup> of its waters to fishing from 22 March 2024. In the coming months and years, further areas will be closed as they have been designated marine protected areas. Such measures will almost exclusively impact European fishing fleets, amounting to de facto discrimination against European fishers. The closures will have economic and social repercussions, but they also pose a genuine environmental problem, as this will result in increased pressure on fishing in European waters, particularly in the English Channel and the North Sea.

The Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) provides for '[the application of] proportionate and non-discriminatory measures for the conservation of marine living resources and the management of fisheries resources' (Article 494).

1. How does the European Commission intend to assess the disproportionate and discriminatory nature of these measures, which are effectively targeting European fishers?
2. Does the Commission intend to take compensatory or remedial measures as well as safeguard measures, as it is entitled to do under Articles 501, 506 and 773 of the TCA?

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