

**Question for written answer E-002797/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Social and economic impact of reducing fishing days in the Mediterranean

The European Commission's recent proposal to reduce trawling days in the Mediterranean by 79 %, from an average of 130 to just 27 days per year, poses an existential threat to 556 vessels and could lead to the loss of 17 000 jobs on the Valencian-Mediterranean coast. Furthermore, the new cuts could put an end to fishermen's guilds and lead to the privatisation of the fish markets, transforming a sustainable, local and community-based fishing model into a privatised model.

In view of the above:

1. How can the Commission justify the 79 % reduction in days at sea without putting forward additional measures to ensure the economic viability of the fleets concerned?
2. Has the Commission carried out a detailed socio-economic impact assessment of this measure, in particular, with regard to the threat it poses to the survival of the small-scale fishing sector, the risk of privatisation of fish markets and the potential disappearance of fishermen's guilds in the western Mediterranean?
3. In view of the disparities in burden-sharing between Mediterranean and non-Mediterranean regions, how does the Commission justify the compatibility of this measure with the principles of social justice and territorial cohesion?

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