

**Question for written answer E-002679/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 144

António Tânger Corrêa (Pfe), Tomáš Kubín (Pfe), Julien Leonardelli (Pfe), Séverine Werbrouck (Pfe), Tiago Moreira de Sá (Pfe), Ivaylo Valchev (ECR), Angéline Furet (Pfe), Marie-Luce Brasier-Clain (Pfe), Branko Grims (PPE), Ondřej Knotek (Pfe), Hans Neuhoﬀ (ESN)

Subject: Use of EU funds for aquaculture in the Algarve, Portugal

EU funds have been supporting aquaculture projects in Portugal, namely through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and, more recently, the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund. However, most of the aquaculture infrastructure in the Algarve is abandoned, causing environmental damage and navigation hazards, and is drawing criticism from all local fishing communities.

In May 2025, an official delegation of MEPs from Patriots for Europe, focusing on fisheries, visited the area and confirmed this situation on-site. The MEPs raised concerns about the mismanagement of EU funds and called for a revision of the support, planning and monitoring models.

Given this context, local authorities, such as the municipal councils of Lagos and Vila do Bispo, have expressed opposition to the expansion of aquaculture, citing negative impacts on traditional fishing, tourism and the marine ecosystem.

In the light of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What specific audits or evaluation mechanisms has the Commission carried out to ensure the proper implementation of EU-funded aquaculture projects in Portugal, particularly in the Algarve region?
2. What measures are being considered to recover EU funds in cases of abandonment, bankruptcy or fraud involving EU-funded infrastructure?

Supporter¹

Submitted: 1.7.2025

¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Jean-Paul Garraud (Pfe)