

**Question for written answer E-004223/2025**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Aldo Patriciello (PfE)**

**Subject:** The EU's western Mediterranean multiannual fisheries plan and bottom trawling

The western Mediterranean multiannual fisheries plan will further reduce the number of fishing days in 2026, resulting in months of great uncertainty for the Italian bottom trawling industry.

Early indications suggest that the EU could either keep up the pace of fishing effort cuts or even increase it by as much as 40 %, potentially resulting in many fleets in the Tyrrhenian, Ionian, Ligurian and Adriatic Seas not going out to sea at all until January 2026.

Industry associations complain that the current system does not differentiate according to geographical area or fleet size and penalises both artisanal fisheries and territories with tougher operating conditions.

In addition, several scientific studies and data sets indicate that, while the multiannual plan has had dire socioeconomic repercussions for coastal communities, it has not fully achieved its environmental objectives.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission not agree that it should drastically revise the criteria used by the fishing effort reduction plan and that, at the very least, it should provide exemptions from them based on fairer parameters which take local conditions into account?
2. If the Commission does not agree, does it not think that it should at least enact extraordinary financial support measures for the businesses and fleets affected?

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