

**Question for written answer E-004578/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Towards a sustainable balance for bottom trawling in the Mediterranean

Regulation (EU) 2025/219 limits bottom trawling in the Mediterranean in 2025. In conjunction with previous restrictions, this restriction has brought the sector to the brink of collapse, putting over 17 000 jobs and 500 vessels at risk.

Although the industry has adopted sustainability measures, fishers have been unable to use their full quota of fishing days and have suffered a drop of over 15 % in their income. This situation is preventing them from meeting the higher demand for key species over the Christmas period, translating into losses of millions of euros for coastal regions.

It must be pointed out that the recent report by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) confirmed that there had been a recovery in fish stocks in the western Mediterranean, a testament to the efforts the sector has made. These scientific data show that the restrictions need to be reassessed.

In light of this new evidence:

1. Does the Commission acknowledge that the STECF report, which shows that fish stocks have recovered, gives grounds for an urgent reassessment of fishing effort measures to prevent irreversible socio-economic damage?
2. Will the Commission propose an urgent amendment to the Regulation to enable fishers to work the number of fishing days left in their quota for 2025 in order to supply the market for Christmas?

Submitted: 17.11.2025