

Question for written answer E-004691/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Exemption for restrictions of competition for producer organisations (POs) in the fisheries sector

Pursuant to Article 210a of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, the prohibition of cartels laid down in 101 TFEU does not apply to certain sustainability agreements between farmers. This provision allows farmers to enter into agreements which are mutually binding to achieve sustainability objectives, even if those agreements involve restrictions on competition.

In December 2023, the Commission published guidelines (C/2023/1446 of 8 December 2023) to explain how sustainability agreements can fall under Article 210a. Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013, which governs the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products, does not contain an equivalent article. As a result, the scope for cooperation and market regulation in the fisheries sector is more limited than in the agricultural sector. In concrete terms, this means that producer organisations (POs) in the fisheries sector face an obstacle when it comes to making binding agreements on sustainability, market volume, price regulations or quality standards.

Is the Commission prepared, in the context of the ongoing review of the common fisheries policy, to analyse options and make proposals with a view to adding an article to Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 to allow for restrictions of competition for sustainability agreements between POs in the fisheries sector?

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