

**Question for written answer E-004712/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Asger Christensen (Renew)

Subject: Digital traceability requirement for fisheries

European and national stakeholders are warning that the planned entry into force of the digital traceability requirement on 10 January 2026 will result in a system that cannot work in practice. The industry is facing a legal obligation without fundamental prerequisites: there are no applicable technical specifications and no cross-cutting standards. What is more, the Commission's own technical proposals have been withdrawn without a timetable, and the report that is supposed to support implementation is not expected to be completed until the end of 2026.

1. How can the Commission expect legal compliance across the board when the necessary rules and standards do not yet exist?
2. Will the Commission postpone the entry into force so that there is time to bring the rules into line with reality, thus preventing chaos, regulatory rejections and undue burdens on businesses?
3. Will the Commission shoulder responsibility for the consequences if businesses invest in systems that later turn out to be unusable or incompatible with any requirements laid down after entry into force?

Submitted: 27.11.2025