

Question for written answer E-005049/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Kostas Papadakis (NI)

Subject: Acute problems for Greek fishers due to the refusal to grant permits for the use of boat seines

The Greek Government's continued refusal to implement the approved management plan for boat seine fishing has left dozens of Greek fishers in a years-long state of limbo. This has been confirmed by the recent – albeit considerably delayed – ruling against Greece by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).

The Greek state has an obligation to regulate the professional activity, but not necessarily to grant permits, as the EU regulation in question allows for discretion.

The substantive obstacle lies in the provision of Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 that states that Member States may grant permits.

This wording allows the Member State, even after the approval of a management plan, to maintain uncertainty and refuse to grant permits, thereby prohibiting fishing activity.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Given that the management plan has already been considered as 'sustainable and environmentally safe' by the Commission services, how does the Commission view the need, together with the Greek Government, to implement it without further delay?
2. How does the Commission view the need for it to immediately amend Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 so that, if there is an approved management plan, permits can be granted to fishing vessels meeting the requirements?

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