

Question for written answer E-001657/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)

Subject: Small-scale coastal fishing, insularity and disproportionate restrictions in the Mediterranean

Small-scale coastal fishing is a key pillar for many island and coastal communities in Greece.

The Commission itself published a specific guide (vademecum) on the allocation of fishing opportunities in November 2025, recognising that small-scale fishers are particularly vulnerable and that Member States must apply transparent and objective social, economic and environmental criteria.

On 24 March 2026, in view of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 30 March, the Commission returned to the issue, pointing out that small-scale coastal fishing accounts for 76 % of the EU fleet, while 23 % of vessels are already operating at a loss. Nevertheless, in areas of the Mediterranean, fishers have dropped below 130 fishing days, with income losses of up to 40-50 %, which is particularly harmful to the Greek islands.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to ask Member States to give special priority to small-scale coastal and island fisheries when implementing Article 17 of the Regulation on the Common Fisheries Policy and the allocation of fishing opportunities and fishing days?
2. Does the Commission intend to activate targeted financial support through the EMFAF for fishers in island and coastal areas who are disproportionately affected by the restrictions in the Mediterranean?
3. Will the Commission review the current system of fishing limitations in the Mediterranean on the basis of updated scientific and socio-economic data by maritime zone, in order to avoid horizontal measures that lead to the economic suffocation of the primary sector on the islands?

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