

**Question for written answer E-001747/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Illegal fishing in the Mediterranean

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing continues to present a serious threat to the sustainability of Mediterranean marine ecosystems as well as to the income and safety of European fishers. Repeated instances of fishing activities carried out by non-EU vessels in the maritime zones of Member States are causing particular concern. These instances raise serious questions about compliance with the international law of the sea and protection of the sovereign rights of Member States.

In the Mediterranean there have been repeated complaints about fishing activities being carried out by non-EU vessels, including Turkish vessels, in areas where European fishers operate. The situation is creating conditions of unfair competition and is increasing tensions at sea. These instances undermine the effectiveness of European policy on combatting illegal fishing and test the zero tolerance policy proclaimed by the Union.

In view of the above:

1. Has the Commission recorded any instances of illegal or non-compliant fishing activities by non-EU vessels, including Turkish vessels, within the maritime zones of EU Member States in the Mediterranean?
2. What specific EU-wide measures does the Commission take or is it intending to take when there are repeated infringements by non-EU fishing vessels operating in areas of European interest?
3. Does the Commission intend to consider introducing stricter surveillance and control mechanisms and potential trade restrictions for countries that do not ensure compliance of their fishing fleets with international and European rules against illegal fishing?

Submitted: 29.4.2026