

Question for written answer E-002829/2026

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Expert sub-group on eel

On 15 April 2026, the Commission reported to Parliament's Committee on Fisheries that only three Member States, representing a small minority of total eel stock, had notified it regarding their updated Eel Management Plans (EMPs) under Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 (the Eel Regulation). In order to improve the regulation's governance and to ensure regular updates to EMPs, Parliament has recommended the creation of an eel-specific expert group to advise the Commission on implementation, to provide feedback to Member States on their EMPs and to evaluate progress.

The joint special group set up under the marine action plan brings together fisheries and environment ministries, but lacks a specific focus on eel. Given the eel's marine and freshwater life cycle, an eel-specific subgroup would be a cost-efficient and coherent way to address all impacts on eel.

1. Will the Commission consider creating a subgroup under the joint special group that would be dedicated to improved governance of the Eel Regulation?
2. How would the Commission involve representatives from commercial and recreational fishers, water managers, hydro-power companies, civil society and other relevant parties in such a subgroup?
3. How will the Commission ensure the viability and competitiveness of the eel fisheries sector taking into consideration its socio-economic impact?

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