

**Question for written answer E-003533/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Progress on Panama's yellow card on fisheries

Panama has held a yellow card, the EU's formal warning that a country is not doing enough to stop illegal fishing, since December 2019. Panama says it has rewritten its fisheries law, hired inspectors, opened a monitoring centre and tightened controls at ports and processing plants. At this stage, one of Panama's main priorities is the completion and implementation of its traceability system. Its implementation is taking longer than expected owing to the technical, administrative and budgetary requirements associated with a system of this scope. Panama is no small partner: it runs the Panama Canal, flags more ships than other countries, and sits in a region the EU should have closer ties with.

1. Will the Commission set out a clear timeline and the criteria that Panama still has to meet, and will it give the country the time it needs to finish its work on the traceability system?
2. What help can the Commission offer a country under a yellow card, and will it offer that help to Panama, so that this becomes a dialogue more about support and cooperation than about cards?
3. How does the Commission weigh this process against the EU's strategic and trade interests in Panama and Latin America, while other global powers move into the region?

Submitted: 8.9.2026