

Question for written answer E-003726/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Carmen Crespo Díaz (PPE)

Subject: Illegal use of driftnets by Moroccan vessels in the Alboran Sea and EU waters

The Alboran Sea is a particularly important area for Mediterranean fisheries and a key corridor for highly migratory species between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.

Moroccan vessels' continued use of driftnets – despite a ban under the applicable legislation – has been documented. The risk of by-catch when fishing with driftnets is high. What is more, products caught using banned gear could end up on the EU market.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of Moroccan vessels' use of driftnets in the Alboran Sea, particularly the cases documented in waters under Spanish jurisdiction?
2. Is the Commission assessing, within the framework of the IUU Regulation, the extent of Morocco's compliance and cooperation and is there cause to initiate a yellow-card procedure?
3. With a view to preventing products obtained by illegal fishing from entering the European market, is the Commission considering, in cooperation with Spain and through the European Fisheries Control Agency, bolstering fisheries control, inspection and surveillance in the Alboran Sea, and stepping up controls on imports from those fisheries?

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