

**Question for written answer E-004025/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Unused fishing days under the Adriatic demersal effort regime

Under the fishing effort regime for demersal stocks in the Adriatic Sea (GSAs 17 and 18) stemming from Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5, EU trawlers operate within a maximum number of fishing days. The operators the Committee on Fisheries (PECH) met during its mission to Veneto and Marche (21-23 September 2026) stressed that days at sea have already fallen by nearly 40 % since 2000. Adverse weather, environmental emergencies such as the mucilage events recorded in the Upper Adriatic since 2024, and the 2026 fuel price surge are additional factors preventing vessels from using the days allocated to them.

1. Does the Commission hold data on the number of fishing days actually used by EU trawlers in GSAs 17 and 18 in 2022-2025, compared with the days allocated?
2. Will it seek, in the next Adriatic effort regime, a provision allowing days lost for reasons of force majeure to be carried over to the following year?
3. Will it ensure that days not used in a given year are not taken as grounds for lowering future allocations?

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