

**Question for written answer E-004026/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Definition of small-scale coastal fishing and vessels just over 12 metres

Under Regulation (EU) 2021/1139¹, small-scale coastal fishing benefits from more favourable support conditions but is limited to vessels of less than 12 metres not using towed gear. In many European fleets, however, vessels just above this threshold are family-run, operate with small crews on daily trips and have an economic profile close to that of the small-scale segment. They nonetheless fall outside the definition and are treated in the same way as considerably larger vessels.

1. Has the Commission assessed whether the 12-metre threshold reflects the reality of family-run fleets?
2. Will it propose, in the follow-up to the common fisheries policy evaluation or in the fisheries component of the 2028-2034 multiannual financial framework, a definition based on criteria such as trip duration, crew size or ownership structure rather than length alone?
3. Pending such a change, will it allow Member States to extend small-scale support measures to vessels of up to 15 metres?

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¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1139/oj>).