

**Priority question for written answer P-004032/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Gordan Bosanac (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Improving the safety and energy efficiency of fishing vessels

Under the measure ‘I.8.20 Health protection, safety and energy efficiency’, part of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme of the Republic of Croatia for 2021–2027, applicants are invited to submit applications for improving fishing vessels, particularly with regard to their safety and energy efficiency. Following the inclusion of GPS plotters and radars in the 2021-2027 programme, an application was rejected on the basis that expenditure on these instruments improves fish-finding capabilities. However, unlike sonars that detect fish, the radars detect other vessels, buoys and coastlines, while the GPS plotters enable precise positioning and route planning. Both provide a crucial upgrade to vessels, helping fishers with orientation, improving safety and reducing the need for rescue missions for stranded boats, as well as optimising the vessels’ movement and, hence, fuel consumption.

In this context:

1. Can the Commission outline its reasons for considering expenditure on these instruments as a means of improving fish-finding capabilities, not as a means improving safety and energy efficiency?
2. Does the Commission have examples from other national plans of similar and eligible expenditure that increases safety and energy efficiency for fishing vessels?
3. Will the Commission review its decision and look into the safety and energy efficiency aspect of such radars and GPS plotters, hence, rendering them justifiable?

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