

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001391/24
to the Commission
Ana Miranda Paz (Verts/ALE)
(19 July 2024)**

Subject: Need for a European Commissioner for Fisheries

I am a Galician MEP in the European Parliament's Committee on Fisheries, representing the Galician Nationalist Bloc. In the previous legislature, my party requested that there be a single, dedicated position of responsibility for fisheries within the EU executive. This would be vital not only for countries such as mine that have a high dependence on fisheries and shellfishing, but also for the sector as a whole and European fisheries. A dedicated position of responsibility is needed in this area. This request comes from both the fisheries sector and the scientific community. The decisions made in the Commission's previous portfolio are viewed negatively. It is therefore time to make the request again, since fisheries cannot be a policy area of secondary importance, as has been the case until now. In fisheries nations, there is deep dissatisfaction with the Commission for regarding fisheries as a less important policy area, as evidenced by the fact that the Common Fisheries Policy has not been reformed, duties have been neglected, and fisheries policy has been subordinated to other EU policies. In light of the above:

1. Will the new European Commission have a dedicated fisheries portfolio?
2. Will it respond to the sector's requests, as it does in other areas?

Submitted: 19.7.2024

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(18 September 2024)**

Under Article 17(6) of the Treaty on the European Union, it is the prerogative of the President of the Commission to decide on the internal organisation of the Commission.

Therefore, it is also the prerogative of the President of the Commission to decide on the allocation of policy portfolios. Without prejudice to the respective decisions of the President-elect, it should be noted that the political guidelines ⁽¹⁾ put forward by the President-elect and presented to the European Parliament on 18 July 2024 announce the decision to appoint a Fisheries and Oceans Commissioner tasked with ensuring the sector remains sustainable, competitive and resilient and with upholding a level playing field for the European fisheries chain.

The Commission will continue to work on improving the resilience and sustainability of EU fisheries, as outlined in its 2023 Fisheries policy package ⁽²⁾ and to observe the need for consistency and coordination in all its policy actions.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en

⁽²⁾ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/policy/common-fisheries-policy-cfp_en