

EN

E-0001559/2025

Answer given by Mr Kadis

on behalf of the European Commission

(18.6.2025)

In 2024, the Commission received, also in the context of parliamentary question E-000814/2024, information on possible widespread illegal fishing and commercialisation of juvenile species in Italy, including *sardina pilchardus*. Consequently, the Commission contacted the Italian authorities to obtain information on the control and enforcement of such non-compliances, including on seizures. The Commission also received recently a complaint on the same issue, which is being analysed.

The application of the European and national rules on sanctioning, including administrative actions or criminal proceedings, is an important contribution to sustainable fishing. Article 89 of Regulation (EC) 1224/2009¹ requires Member States, *inter alia*, to ensure that sanctions are ‘*capable of producing results proportionate to the seriousness of such infringements, thereby effectively discouraging further offences [...]*.’ The Commission considers as serious issue any failure to implement the Common Fisheries Policy and would act fittingly upon evidence that sanctions do not meet the requirements set out in the legislation. This includes ensuring the application of the new and strengthened sanctioning rules recently introduced by Regulation (EU) 2023/2842² that will apply from January 2026.

¹ OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 1. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_2009.343.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2009%3A343%3ATO C.

² Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 November 2023 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, and amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1967/2006 and (EC) No 1005/2008 and Regulations (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2017/2403 and (EU) 2019/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards fisheries control.