

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003932/25
to the Commission
Thomas Bajada (S&D)
(7 October 2025)**

Subject: Trade restrictive measures

Efforts are under way to strengthen the EU's legislative framework against unsustainable fishing by non-EU countries, particularly through trade restrictive measures. Such measures are known to be successful in ensuring multilateral compliance in fisheries management, such as those taken under recommendation 06-13 of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

In the light of the upcoming annual meeting of the General Fisheries Management Organisation (GFCM) this November:

1. Does the Commission view trade restrictive measures within regional fisheries management organisations, particularly the GFCM, to be an effective means of ensuring compliance by non-EU countries?
2. Will the Commission propose or adopt the corrective measures within the GFCM framework?
3. What specific measures will the Commission take at the upcoming GFCM annual meeting to ensure compliance, the introduction of corrective measures and follow-up on cases of non-compliance by non-EU countries in the Mediterranean Sea?

Submitted: 7.10.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(24 November 2025)**

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) is a regional fisheries management organisation (RFMO) founded on principles of collaboration and solidarity, aimed to achieve the objectives of sustainable management and exploitation of shared marine living resources.

The Commission's approach to ensuring compliance within the framework of the GFCM focuses on the promotion of sustainable practices, aligned with EU standards.

This strategy seeks to balance enforcement with capacity-building support to enhance the effectiveness of this RFMO and the ownership and successful implementation of measures. In general, trade restrictive measures should represent a last resort.

In 2025, the Commission's primary focus in the GFCM is on strengthening the compliance framework towards fully implementing agreed-upon measures for level playing field for all operators.

Following the EU position endorsed by the Council for the upcoming annual session, the Commission will propose measures to consolidate the legal framework on compliance, including a proposal to adopt follow-up actions to deter non-compliance on reporting and control issues.

It will, furthermore, bring forward cases of possible non-compliance with the GFCM rules, resulting from GFCM Joint Inspection Schemes.
