

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004712/25  
to the Commission  
Asger Christensen (Renew)  
(27 November 2025)**

*Subject:* Digital traceability requirement for fisheries

European and national stakeholders are warning that the planned entry into force of the digital traceability requirement on 10 January 2026 will result in a system that cannot work in practice. The industry is facing a legal obligation without fundamental prerequisites: there are no applicable technical specifications and no cross-cutting standards. What is more, the Commission's own technical proposals have been withdrawn without a timetable, and the report that is supposed to support implementation is not expected to be completed until the end of 2026.

1. How can the Commission expect legal compliance across the board when the necessary rules and standards do not yet exist?
2. Will the Commission postpone the entry into force so that there is time to bring the rules into line with reality, thus preventing chaos, regulatory rejections and undue burdens on businesses?
3. Will the Commission shoulder responsibility for the consequences if businesses invest in systems that later turn out to be unusable or incompatible with any requirements laid down after entry into force?

Submitted: 27.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission  
(19 January 2026)**

Since 2011 <sup>(1)</sup>, EU rules have required that fishery and aquaculture products be traced and be accompanied by a minimum set of information. They also required operators to maintain systems and procedures to identify any operator from whom they have been supplied and to whom these products have been supplied.

The Commission does not have the power, through delegated legislation, to postpone the 2026 implementation deadline established by the co-legislators in Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 <sup>(2)</sup>.

The co-legislators did not envisage any mandatory use of the empowerment under Article 58(12) of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 <sup>(3)</sup>. Compliance with Article 58(6) operates independently of the adoption of any supplementing legislation. The obligation to make information available 'in a digital way' is formulated broadly, allowing compliance through a range of means that enable digital data transmission.

The Commission will continue working with stakeholders and Member States to develop supplementary rules that can support them and further harmonise and simplify the traceability framework, while fostering the policy objectives of Regulation (EU) 2023/2842.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 (pre-revision), Article 58(1) to (5). Article 124(a) of the Control Regulation, which deferred the application of Article 58 until 1 January 2011. <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1224/oj>.

<sup>(2)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2842/oj/eng>.

<sup>(3)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1224/oj/eng>.