

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000589/26
to the Commission
Asger Christensen (Renew)
(11 February 2026)**

Subject: Coherence and proportionality of Remote Electronic Monitoring-based control under Regulation (EU) 2023/2842

Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 ⁽¹⁾ mandates the use of remote electronic monitoring (REM) systems to monitor and enforce compliance with the landing obligation, thereby introducing an additional layer of fisheries control on top of existing regulatory mechanisms. REM-based control is specifically designed to support the common fisheries policy (CFP) reform's fundamental requirement of full catch accountability. However, the Control Regulation ⁽²⁾ also contains multiple other control instruments that seek, directly or indirectly, to ensure compliance with the same CFP objectives. Available evidence and practical experience suggest that this cumulative 'belt-and-braces' approach risks creating unnecessary regulatory complexity, legal ambiguity, and inefficiencies that may undermine both enforcement, effectiveness and proportionality.

1. Will the Commission produce a report outlining a coherent and streamlined control framework for fully documented fisheries based on REM systems?
2. Will the Commission assess and compare such a REM-based framework with the current multi-layered control regime in terms of simplicity and effectiveness, in relation to the landing obligation?
3. Will the Commission consider launching pilot projects or trials to test a control model for vessels fully equipped with REM systems?

Submitted: 11.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(14 April 2026)**

To strengthen the effectiveness of the Union fisheries control system, the co-legislators introduced via regulation (EU) 2023/2842 ⁽¹⁾ dedicated rules on the mandatory use of remote electronic monitoring (REM) systems on board certain catching vessels of 18 metres length or more posing a high risk of non-compliance with the landing obligation.

To safeguard the right to privacy, recording will be limited to actively operated gear and parts of the vessels where fishery products are visible.

These rules are distinct from a fully documented fisheries approach ⁽²⁾ as the scope is limited to monitoring compliance with the landing obligation. REM has been proven in several trials and studies by Member States to be an effective tool to ensure control and enforcement of the main risks associated with the landing obligation ⁽³⁾.

The REM provisions will start applying in January 2028, as provided in Article 7(7) of Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 and the Commission is actively preparing for it, including through the gradual development of secondary legislation.

Going forward, the Commission considers important to take account of technological development for the monitoring and control of fisheries in the EU.

While Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 does not task the Commission with conducting pilot projects on fully documented fisheries based on REM systems, the European Fisheries Control Agency maintains a working group on REM that ensures monitoring, coordination and technical guidance for voluntary REM pilot projects carried out by Member States to inform potential future deployment.

¹ OJ L, 2023/2842, 20.12.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2842/oj>.

² OJ L 95, 7.4.2017, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L, 2023/2842, 20.12.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2842/oj>.

⁽²⁾ Fully documented fishery is not a concept defined in the EU fisheries control framework.

⁽³⁾ The Danish Electronic monitoring in the Danish Kattegat (3AS) Nephrops fishery report stated: 'Overall, the experience after three years of camera documented fisheries in Kattegat and the Baltic Sea is that camera documentation is an effective form of control, especially for documenting catches and thus compliance with the landing obligation. The assessment is also that there are no alternative control methods that can effectively control the landing obligation. From the perspective of the authorities, EM with cameras is therefore a very effective control tool'. Source: https://lfst.dk/Media/638597361463094390/Evaluation_Electronic_Monitoring_in_Kattegat_2021-2023_.pdf.