

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001057/26
to the Commission
Jorge Buxadé Villalba (Pfe), Hermann Tertsch (Pfe), António Tânger Corrêa (Pfe)
(13 March 2026)**

Subject: Failure to answer the substance of Question E-000041/2026/rev.1 in full

The Commission reply failed to address ⁽¹⁾ two of the questions raised ⁽²⁾, for which reason we submit them again:

1. Does the Commission have information on the final recipients of said aid?
2. Has the Commission assessed the impact of those financial contributions on the competitiveness and viability of fishing fleets in Member States such as Spain and Portugal?
3. What main conclusions has it come to?

Submitted: 13.3.2026

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

The EU financial contribution under Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs), in line with Article 32(1) of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Regulation, has two components.

The first covers access to fisheries resources and is paid directly to the partner country's government. Its use falls under national sovereignty and the Commission doesn't monitor it and doesn't have information on final recipients.

In contrast, the second component, the sectoral support, is subject to strict monitoring and reporting. Partner countries must provide annual reports on their implementation, activities and beneficiaries.

Progress is regularly assessed, including in the annual Joint Committee meetings which govern the implementation of the SFPAs, and payments depend on satisfactory implementation. More details are available in the *ex-ante* and *ex-post* evaluations, published on the website of the EU's publication office ⁽³⁾.

The Commission regularly assesses the impact of SFPAs, including their economic relevance for the EU fleet, through the above-mentioned evaluations carried out before each protocol is concluded or renewed.

These consistently show that SFPAs support the competitiveness and viability of the EU fishing fleet, including those of Spain and Portugal.

They provide access to key fishing zones and resources not available in EU waters, ensure predictable and secure operating conditions for EU vessels, support year-round continuity of fishing activities, and help sustain sectoral employment and economic activity.

The Commission's conclusion is that SFPAs remain an essential tool for supporting the external dimension of the CFP, contributing both to sustainable fisheries and the economic performance of the EU fleet.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000041-ASW_EN.pdf.

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000041_EN.html.

⁽³⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/fr>.