

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001696/26
to the Commission
Stefano Cavedagna (ECR), Carlo Ciccioli (ECR)
(24 April 2026)**

Subject: Problems with the application of Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 and simplification measures for the fisheries sector

Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 imposes extensive digital traceability obligations on operators in the fisheries sector. It requires the collection, recording, and structured submission of a considerable amount of data for each batch — including vessel identifiers, catch certificates, FAO codes, fishing zones and gear, quantities, processing units, and catch or harvest dates — for both fishery and aquaculture products.

These requirements are replicated at every stage of the supply chain, thus increasing red tape without cutting the total amount of data required. The system also assumes a degree of digitalisation and interoperability that does not currently exist in the sector. In the absence of harmonised infrastructure and standards among Member States, many operators are forced to re-enter data manually, increasing errors, inconsistencies and delays. Thus the supply chain has a structural digital imbalance.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to adopt simplification measures to make the obligations under Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 proportionate to operating conditions in the supply chain?
2. Will it consider a tiered approach where comprehensive data storage is restricted to upstream operators (tier 1) and the passing of data to subsequent operators only at the request of competent authorities?
3. What steps will it take to develop interoperable and accessible digital infrastructure for all operators in the sector?

Submitted: 24.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(11 June 2026)**

The Commission has been actively working through implementation to reduce administrative and operational burdens, while preserving the rules and objectives agreed by the co-legislators in the context of the revision of the fisheries control system, which culminated with the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 ⁽¹⁾.

Traceability obligations for lots of fishery and aquaculture products have already applied since 2011, requiring detailed information to be available throughout the supply chain.

This includes the requirement for operators to identify both the immediate supplier and recipient of such products and make this information available to competent authorities upon request.

Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 requires such information to be recorded and made available ‘in a digital way’, a technologically neutral formulation that allows various means of digital transmission without mandating any specific systems or tools across the supply chain.

Taking into account input received from Member States and stakeholders, including through a dedicated public questionnaire, the Commission will consider making use of the delegated powers under Article 58(12) of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 to establish harmonised rules for marketing control across the supply chain, including, where possible, rules on simplified data formats, transfer and submission.

Such harmonisation would support interoperability by default, without prejudice to international rules and standards applicable for that purpose.

The Commission will continue exploring, together with operators and Member States, the need for and options to establish a balanced, interoperable, proportionate, and accessible digital system for operators.

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