

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001925/26
to the Commission
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)
(11 May 2026)**

Subject: Adequacy and effectiveness of monitoring horsepower (kW) and tonnage (GT) under Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013

Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 establishes the framework for the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) with the aim of sustainable exploitation of marine biological resources. In this context, the monitoring of fishing capacity continues to be implemented through the indicators of horsepower (kW) and gross tonnage (GT).

In light of developments in the fisheries sector, technical issues have arisen regarding the application of these indicators. Technological progress in fishing vessels has increased fishing efficiency without a corresponding change in recorded GT and kW. At the same time, there are differences in the practices of recording and certifying engine power between Member States, which affects the comparability of data.

Furthermore, the implementation of the relevant provisions varies at national level. Finally, the GT and kW indicators are not directly linked to biological indicators of fish stock management, such as maximum sustainable yield (MSY), but function mainly as administrative tools for fleet control.

The Commission is asked:

1. How does it assess the suitability of the existing GT and kW indicators as tools for monitoring fishing capacity in light of technological developments, and is the use of complementary fishing effort indicators for monitoring fishing capacity being considered?
2. What measures ensure they are applied uniformly across the EU?
3. Is there provision for updating the methodologies for measuring and certifying fishing capacity?

Submitted: 11.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(22 July 2026)**

A recent study on the EU fishing fleet assesses its evolution and current and future challenges, including possible alternative approaches to measuring fishing capacity ⁽¹⁾.

It highlights challenges linked to the energy transition, safety and welfare, and examines how potential changes to gross tonnage (GT) and engine power (kW) could affect fishing capacity, with a view to better balancing fleet capacity with available fishing opportunities while supporting economic, social and environmental sustainability. The study fed into the evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Regulation ⁽²⁾.

Article 4(1)(24) of the CFP Regulation ⁽³⁾ defines fishing capacity and parameters for fleet capacity management. Member States submit annual reports on the balance between the fishing capacity of their fleets and their fishing opportunities under Article 22 of the CFP Regulation.

These are assessed by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF). Member States must comply with capacity ceilings and ensure checks on GT and kW.

The Commission has issued technical guidance to support harmonised monitoring and control of engine power. The Fisheries Control Regulation, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 ⁽⁴⁾, empowers the Commission to adopt implementing acts on certification and verification of engine power, including continuous monitoring systems, contributing to improving uniform application. These rules shall be applicable from 10 January 2028.

GT and kW measurement methodologies are well established by Regulation (EU) 2017/1130 ⁽⁵⁾, and based on accepted technical standards.

⁽¹⁾ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a4685a4b-359c-472e-bc8f-ea2035470a37_en?filename=european%20unions%20fishing%20fleet-HZ0126066ENN%20%281%29.pdf.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_938.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1380/oj/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2842/oj/eng>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/1130/oj/eng>.

There is no evidence to underpin a clear and specific need, nor are there viable alternative standards to support an update of these methodologies.
