

EN
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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.8.2026)

CATCH is operational as of 10 January 2026 and aligned to legal requirements in the revised IUU Regulation¹. On 29 July 2026 more than 81 000 valid importer declarations are in CATCH, and no major disruption of trade has been reported to the Commission.

CATCH, developed by the Commission together with the Member States, is continuously improved, following confirmation of technical issues or based on feedback from operators and Member States authorities. Eight releases have already taken place since 10 January 2026.

Most delays are neither linked to features of CATCH nor to the few new requirements of the revised EU catch certification scheme but to missing or incorrect data in documentation certified by non-EU countries that slow down the submission by EU operators and the validation by Member States authorities.

The Commission is making efforts to provide guidance documents and trainings to non-EU countries. These need to be complimented by full enforcement by Member States authorities.
2. The Commission is not empowered to and has hence not granted any derogation to Member States as regards the mandatory use of CATCH and implementation of the revised EU catch certification scheme.

The Commission has been carefully monitoring the situation and has engaged with all Member States to ensure the use of CATCH and the relevant submission of data into the system by EU operators.

CATCH aims to ensure the harmonisation of IUU import controls. The Commission has provided guidance to Member States to perform checks and verifications.

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Union system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999.