

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002905/24
to the Commission
Ton Diepeveen (P/E)
(12 December 2024)**

Subject: Deferral of delegated and implementing acts under the Fisheries Control Regulation

The Commission is currently working on delegated and implementing acts under the Fisheries Control Regulation covering key issues such as fishing licences, gear definitions, tracking systems, fishing infringements (including forced labour) and weighing procedures. However, concerns have been raised about the feasibility and proportionality of these measures.

1. Member States have only been given four working days to review more than 60 pages of complex measures. Why is there such haste to implement these measures, given the transition to a new Commission and the fact that many of them are not pressing?
2. How does the Commission intend to reconcile the additional operational and administrative burden that these measures will entail for fishing businesses with the objective of reducing the administrative burden on businesses by 30% and why, in this context, has no delegated act been proposed, for example, to exempt certain catches of demersal stocks from the requirement for separate stowage ⁽¹⁾?
3. How does the Commission justify the inclusion of new provisions, such as those on weighing procedures, which go beyond the mandate laid down in Regulation (EU) 2023/2842?

Submitted: 12.12.2024

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(3 February 2025)**

The revised fisheries control Regulation ⁽¹⁾, as agreed by the co-legislators, introduced several provisions which require that the Commission prepares implementing and delegated acts for Member States and operators to be able to implement them.

Some of these provisions will enter into force in 2026, others in 2027 and in 2028. The Commission has been conducting comprehensive technical consultations with Member States to prepare these acts. Member States have been given adequate time to react to the Commission's proposals. This process is still ongoing.

Reducing administrative burden is an important parameter for the Commission in the preparation of these acts. As an illustration, the aim of the Commission is to simplify the implementing legislation in force (Regulation 404/2011 ⁽²⁾) by removing or updating many articles and several annexes as they have become obsolete or require adaptation to implement the revised rules.

Many of the new implementing rules incorporate flexibility to facilitate implementation, minimise complexity and digitalise reporting.

The Commission is bound by the empowerment given by the co-legislators in the revised fisheries control Regulation. In particular, Articles 60(10) and 60a(1) and (2) of this regulation empower the Commission to adopt implementing and delegated acts on weighing procedures.

On that basis, the Commission services are currently preparing draft weighing rules in close consultation with the Member States, taking also into consideration the recent recommendations from the European Fisheries Control Agency.

These new provisions related to weighing contained in Articles 60 (10) and 60a of the regulation will need to be in place before January 2027.

¹ Article 44(4) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, as amended by Regulation (EU) No 2023/2842.

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 November 2023 as regards fisheries control, OJ L, 2023/2842, 20.12.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2842/oj>

⁽²⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 of 8 April 2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy, OJ L 112, 30.4.2011, p. 1-15, http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2011/404/oj