

**Question for written answer E-001674/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Thomas Bajada (S&D)

Subject: Ensuring significant advances during the upcoming 47th Annual Session of the GFCM (4-8 November 2024, Rome)

In order to ensure that the outcome of the 47th Annual Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) significantly advances the agenda in terms of achieving Mediterranean-wide sustainability in the fisheries sector, the EU must strengthen its regional diplomacy in this forum.

To guarantee social justice for EU small-scale fishers, while taking into account the GFCM 2030 Strategy, the Malta MedFish4Ever Ministerial Declaration and the Sofia Ministerial Declaration, could the Commission explain what tangible actions it is taking to ensure that this Annual Session, to be held in Rome from 4 to 8 November 2024, concludes with significant progress on:

1. sustaining the GFCM's operations (including budget and capacity) in the coming years, thereby ensuring that the goals of the GFCM 2030 Strategy can be reached?
2. making certain that cases of non-compliance by Contracting and Cooperating Parties (CPCs) are raised at the GFCM Compliance Committee and that action is taken thereafter, with the aim of guaranteeing that all CPCs enforce compliance equally in the region?
3. ensuring that the GFCM urgently adopts recommendations that are equivalent to the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 (the Fisheries Control Regulation), which are currently imposed on EU fishers, thereby ensuring a regulatory and competitive level playing field between EU and non-EU fishers in the Mediterranean region?

Submitted: 10.9.2024