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According to the latest report of the UN body the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the global fishing fleet is currently 2.5 times larger than needed. Much of this overcapacity has been driven by government subsidies, particularly in Europe and Asia. On top of the overcapacity, many fishing methods are unsustainable from other points of view. These methods have a major negative impact on the basic functioning of marine ecosystems.

The result of decades of unchecked global fishing impelled by greed, corruption, mismanagement and public indifference is the progressive collapse of fish stocks in all oceans. Almost 80 % of the world's fisheries are overexploited, depleted, or in a state of collapse. Worldwide, about 90 % of the stock of large predator fish has already disappeared. Given the Commission's reform of the EU's common fisheries policy:

1. Is the Commission planning new measures for a gradual recovery of fish stocks?
2. Is it taking due account of biodiversity in the Mediterranean and the multi-species nature of its fishery?
3. What steps will the Commission take to ensure that when drawing up new fisheries agreements with third countries, suitable parameters are set to ensure a more sustainable use of resources?

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*Question for written answer  
to the Commission  
Rule 117*

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