

**Question for written answer E-006250/2018
to the Council**
Rule 130
Helmut Scholz (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Ratification of the 2012 International Maritime Organisation Cape Town agreement

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing threatens the sustainability of the world's fisheries and the well-being of people across the globe. The United Nations International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and International Labour Organisation (ILO) have acknowledged the links between IUU fishing and crimes that affect the safety and welfare of crews. According to FAO and ILO, commercial fishing is one of the most dangerous professions globally, with 24 million people injured and at least 24 000 deaths annually on commercial fishing vessels – 10 times the number than those on merchant ships.

The 2012 IMO Cape Town agreement aims to raise the international safety standards of fishing vessels, but has yet to enter into force.

In February 2014, at the Commission's suggestion and Parliament's consent, the Council adopted a decision authorising the Member States to ratify the agreement within two years, as it deemed it necessary that the EU act to improve maritime safety. To date, just five Member States have done so.

1. What discussions has the Council had on this matter and what conclusions have they reached?
2. What specific steps have been taken to encourage Member States to ratify the agreement?
3. What specific measures are planned for the near future?