

# What future for Fisheries in the European Outermost Regions?

Thursday 10 November 2016  
12:30 – 14:30  
Room JAN 6Q1  
European Parliament, Brussels

Co-hosted by:

## **Maurice PONGA MEP**

Chair of the *“Island and Overseas Entities”* working group of the EP Intergroup on *“Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development”*

## **Alain CADEC MEP**

Chair of the *“Fisheries, Aquaculture & Integrated Maritime Policy”* working group of the EP Intergroup on *“Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development”*

Interpretation FR-EN-DE-ES-PT

## DRAFT AGENDA

Fisheries in the European Outermost Regions (ORs) nowadays face specific challenges due to their isolated geographic location, the tropical climate and a restricted market for their products. In the ORs the fishing fleet mostly consists of small-size boats, the catching capacity is limited, the fishing range is limited (95% of the fleet practice daily fishing trips), and aging fishing gear raises concerns over the welfare of workers at sea, making this profession ever less attractive. Illegal and unregulated fishing (IUU) adds another factor of stress to this challenging situation.

Nevertheless, fisheries in the ORs have a huge potential to be exploited, thanks to their exclusive economic zones, making it the European Union’s biggest sea basin in the world. This potential is ever more important when taking into account the increasing role of marine resources in our future food security.

The European Parliament’s own initiative report *“Management of the fishing fleets in the outermost regions”*, lead by MEP Ulrike Rodust (S&D, DE), focuses on the future of this economic sector and its essential contribution to the development of outermost territories. The report acknowledges ORs’ fishing fleet as an instrument of economic prosperity, and at the same time underlines the specific difficulties faced by these regions.

The conference aims at raising awareness on the unique situation of fisheries in the ORs, and at suggesting elements that could improve the framework of the European Common Fisheries Policy (2014-2020), in order to allow the ORs’ fishing fleets to fulfil their potential.

11:30-12:30 Participants' Registration (Entrance of the JAN building of the European Parliament)  
 11:45-12:30 Walking lunch (Espace Brasserie JAN 3 Q)

### Opening Session

12:30-13:00

Welcoming words by **Maurice PONGA MEP** – 2 min  
 Opening Remarks by **Alain CADEC MEP** – 5 min  
 Remarks by **Ulrike RODUST MEP**, Rapporteur on the Management of fishing fleets in the ORs – 5 min  
 Remarks by **Rodolphe ALEXANDRE**, President of the Conference of ORs - 10 min  
 Intervention by **Armando ASTUDILLO**, Adviser Dir. “Atlantic, Outermost Regions and Arctic”, DG MARE, European Commission – 10 min

### First panel:

#### The ORs: strategic sea basins with specific features

13:00-13:25 - Chaired by MEP Ricardo SERRÃO SANTOS (Azores Islands)

- 1) Specific geographic and ecological situation – Carole Martinez, IUCN, 10 min
- 2) Suitable fishing practices – Jorge Gonçalves, President of the General Assembly of the Fisheries Federation of Azores Islands, 10 min

5 min - Questions & Answers

### Second panel:

#### A new European framework to promote ORs' sustainable development

13:25-13:50 - Chaired by MEP Gabriel MATO (Canary Islands)

- 1) Economic and social context – Abel Morales Rodriguez, Vice-counsellor for Agriculture, pour l'Agriculture, Farming, Fisheries and Water, Autonomous Government of Canary Islands, 10 min
- 2) Rethinking the approach at the regional level – Jocelyn Médaille, CRPEM French Guiana, 10 min

5 min - Questions & Answers

### Third panel:

#### The need of a new fishing policy for the ORs

13:50-14:25 - Chaired by MEP Younous OMARJEE (Reunion Island)

- 1) Promoting fisheries in the ORs: a new Community fund, or national interventions? – Fabrice Minatchy, CRPEM et ARIPA, Reunion Island, 10 min
- 2) Acknowledging the interests and challenges of the ORs within European policies – Jean-Claude Yoyotte, CRPEM Guadeloupe, 10 min

15 min : Questions & Answers

14:25-14:30 - Closing Remarks by MEP Claudia MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR, (Madeira Island), EPP shadow rapporteur on the Management of fishing fleets in the ORs.