

Question for written answer E-002724/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Giuseppe Lupo (S&D)

Subject: Calculation of relevant turnover for State aid for shellfish farms affected by warming of waters

In recent years, the unprecedented rise in Mediterranean sea temperatures has seriously damaged shellfish farms, particularly those producing oysters and other shellfish, causing heavy financial losses.

In note Ares(2011)666348 of 21 June 2011, concerning aid scheme No 618/2009 relating to adverse weather conditions that occurred in August 2008 in the Gulf of Olbia, the Commission clarified that, for the purposes of the 30 % threshold laid down in the guidelines on State aid in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, the term ‘annual turnover’ was to be interpreted as referring to the total annual turnover of the undertaking in question, and not just to the turnover from the product affected by the event.

In the light of the developments in the regulatory framework governing State aid for fisheries and aquaculture, and the increasing frequency with which climate change is affecting aquaculture farms:

1. Does that interpretation still apply?
2. Does the Commission believe that, in cases where climate damage affects only a specific aquaculture product, the 30 % threshold should continue to be calculated on the basis of the company’s total turnover?
3. Will it consider updating the guidelines to take account of the specific characteristics of shellfish farming and the growing impact of warming sea waters on businesses?

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