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E-001747/2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.11.2024)

1. The Commission had contact on the situation in the Orbetello lagoon and the resulting damages with the Managing Authority of the European Regional Development Fund¹ Regional Programme (ERDF RP) for Tuscany to explore potential interventions.

2. The Commission has not received any request from the Italian government concerning this situation. In the framework of the ERDF RP for Tuscany 2021-2027, there are no interventions planned to repair damages to the fishing sector and tourism. The ERDF RP for Tuscany is focused on risk prevention, including on the construction of infrastructures to prevent natural risks (hydraulic, hydrogeological and drought).

Competent authorities can consider mobilising financing from the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)² allocated to the Italian Programme to provide support to the fisheries sector, while enhancing its capacity to manage and respond to such risks in the future. The activation of EMFAF financial support should be in line with the objectives of the Italian EMFAF Programme as agreed between the Commission and Italy. The affected parties should coordinate with the relevant Italian authorities to apply for such support.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/european-regional-development-fund-erdf_en

² https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/funding/emfaf_en