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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.1.2025)

The Commission engages in consultations with Norway and other coastal States on behalf of the EU based on positions agreed in the Council and in close coordination with Member States, with a view to ensuring the sustainability of shared fish stocks and safeguarding the livelihood of fishing communities that depend on them. The UK is the only third country today enjoying access to EU waters to fish for mackerel. As regards access for Norwegian vessels, this is decided annually on the basis of bilateral consultations on (reciprocal) fishing opportunities that the Commission conducts on behalf of the EU and in exchange of access to Norwegian waters and quotas of relevant stocks of interest to the EU.

The EU is actively engaged in consultations on a quota-sharing arrangement for mackerel with other coastal States and advocates for a comprehensive deal that will bring the sum of all quotas to sustainable levels as advised by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas. The Commission shares the serious concern regarding the biological status of this valuable stock that is in declining trend since 2020. The EU has expressed strong concerns about the unilateral actions taken by certain coastal States, including Norway, which continue to put the mackerel stock at risk, and continues to engage to promote the long-term sustainability of this stock.