

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002365/24
to the Commission
Dimitris Tsiodras (PPE)
(30 October 2024)**

Subject: Compensation for seafood farms that have taken a hit due to climate change

The Mediterranean is considered one of the regions most vulnerable to climate change, as temperatures there are rising 20% faster than the global average. The climate crisis and rising sea temperatures are affecting primary production and having serious implications for Mediterranean marine ecosystems as well as a series of related sectors such as mussel-farming.

For example, it is estimated that 60% of this year's marketable production of species such as mussels was lost due to high temperatures lasting many days, with sea warming expected to severely affect the next harvest too.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission looking into the possibility of earmarking resources from European funds such as the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) to compensate affected farmers as but also to create new funding programmes in case these resources prove insufficient?
2. How does it plan to support the process of ensuring sustainability in these sectors?

Submitted: 30.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(6 January 2025)**

1. The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) makes a budgetary envelope available to each Member State, as set out in Annex V to the EMFAF Regulation ⁽¹⁾ to provide support to operators under a national programme. The design of the programme and allocation of the budget is based on the needs and priorities of the Member State. The fund allows support being dedicated to addressing the issues raised by the Honourable Member, in alignment with the objectives of the Multiannual National Plan for Aquaculture.

2. In May 2021, the Commission adopted a 'Communication on strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030' ⁽²⁾ setting the vision for EU aquaculture to grow into an even more competitive and resilient sector and become a global reference for sustainability by 2030.

The Strategic Guidelines cover all issues of relevance to the sustainable development of aquaculture in the EU with concrete recommendations and proposals for action.

On the effects of climate change, it is noted that 'the aquaculture sector will need to adapt to the many disruptive impacts of climate change and improve its resilience'.

The Commission, as part of the implementation of the Strategic Guidelines, is finalising a staff working document on the climate adaptation of the EU aquaculture sector to support authorities, policymakers in Member States and the aquaculture sector in creating climate adaptation plans.

It will present the effects that climate change can have on EU aquaculture, a detailed process for developing a climate adaptation plan and provide examples of good practices for several measures. Moreover, it will refer to existing knowledge gaps and provide policy recommendations.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021R1139>

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2021:236:FIN>