

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002461/24
to the Commission
João Oliveira (The Left)
(7 November 2024)**

Subject: Situation of fishers at Pedrouços Dock with regard to a project funded by the Recovery and Resilience Plan

The fishing community in the Tagus estuary maintains an operating base at Pedrouços Dock in Lisbon. More than 30 people work there, despite a number of projects that have restricted fishing activity.

Lisbon Port Administration and Lisbon City Council are preparing a new development at the dock that may place even greater restrictions on fishing. The development comprises the ‘Hub Azul’, which will include a cluster of companies, and the ‘Shared Ocean Lab’. It has been announced that roughly EUR 31 million in funding will come from the Recovery and Resilience Plan.

The project has come under fire from the fishing community for undermining the community’s already unstable working conditions.

Lisbon Port Administration is threatening to throw out the fishers without providing alternatives, leaving them unable to work.

The ‘Hub Azul’ development appears to exclude fishing activity. In view of the above:

1. Can the Commission say if the funds allocated to this project entail maintaining and promoting fishing activity, for which no decent fishing port exists in the largest estuary in Western Europe?
2. Is any alternative envisaged for the fishers working in Pedrouços Dock? If not, what funds can be used for that purpose?

Submitted: 7.11.2024

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(22 January 2025)**

The implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRP) is the responsibility of Member States. Member States decide and execute the individual actions, such as the development of the ‘Hub Azul’, through their national or regional authorities in order to fulfil the milestones and targets established in the Council Implementing Decision (CID) of each RRP.

The description of that project in the CID does not include any specifications or requirements related to the fishing sector. Questions about potential alternatives or support for the fishing community should be addressed to the national authorities responsible for managing the project and implementing the measures of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF).

With regards to potentially relevant funds, local fisheries communities can receive EU support for the implementation of projects through local partnerships, called Community-led local development (CLLD). This happens in the scope of the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF 2021-2027).

EMFAF programmes are implemented under shared management by the Member States. More information concerning these funding opportunities is available on the website of the MAR 2030 Programme ⁽¹⁾. The Honourable Member is also invited to contact the Portuguese Managing Authority ⁽²⁾ directly for more information on concrete support options in Portugal.

The Commission will continue to monitor the implementation of the RRP and to work with Member States to ensure that the objectives of the plans are achieved and serve the benefit of citizens.

⁽¹⁾ <https://mar2030.pt/>

⁽²⁾ Edifício dos Pilotos, Doca do Bom Sucesso, 1400-038, Lisboa; Tel.: 211 165 700; info@mar2030.pt