

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002194/25
to the Commission
Eric Sargiacomo (S&D)
(2 June 2025)**

Subject: Financial support for decarbonising the fishing fleet

The energy crisis linked to the situation in Ukraine, decarbonisation and climate change in general have become major challenges for fishers. Initiatives to reduce fishing vessels' CO₂ emissions are springing up across Europe. However, initial feedback has raised an issue that had not been anticipated: the loss of revenue owing to vessels being out of action while work (sometimes taking between one and four months) is carried out. Such losses could discourage fishers from moving towards energy transition and therefore slow down experimentation and innovation. In light of this:

1. Could EU funds be used to compensate fishers for their loss of revenue as a result of their vessels being put out of action to carry out the work necessary to reduce their carbon footprint?
2. If compensation is not possible, does the Commission plan to take account of this issue in future reviews of legislation?
3. If compensation is not possible, does the Commission foresee the possibility for soft loans in conjunction with the EIB to shore up fishing companies' accounts?

Submitted: 2.6.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(18 July 2025)**

The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) ⁽¹⁾ can support compensation for the temporary cessation of fishing activities caused by the implementation of certain conservation measures, or in case of exceptional events causing a significant disruption of markets.

Regarding energy transition, EMFAF can support the development of new solutions for the fleet through innovation and testing of new technology as well as investments in technology to modernise the fleet. The issue of energy transition in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors will remain central in the future.

The Commission strongly encourages Member States to set up financial instruments through their EMFAF programmes as they offer a business-friendly approach for productive investments.

Moreover, following the communication from the Commission on the Energy Transition of the EU Fisheries and Aquaculture sector ⁽²⁾, the Commission is continuously exploring with other institutions, including the European Investment Fund and European Investment Bank, possible ways to mobilise and leverage private financing for the development and adaptation of new clean-energy technology in vessels and aquaculture sites.

At the same time, the Commission continues to work in direct collaboration with the Energy Transition Partnership in EU fisheries and aquaculture, that is currently developing recommendations for the energy transition in the sector.

The outcome of this work, including the forthcoming recommendations, will be used for shaping the Commission's roadmap on the energy transition for EU fisheries and aquaculture to be published by the Commission in the first half of 2026.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004.
⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0100>.