

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003052/25
to the Commission
Anna Maria Cisint (PFE)
(23 July 2025)

Subject: Proposal for the new EU budget 2028-2034 — request for urgent fisheries and aquaculture refinancing

The EU budget proposal for 2028 to 2034 provides for a drastic cut in fisheries and aquaculture resources, decreasing them from EUR 6.1 billion to a little more than 2 billion, i.e. a drop of 67% — an absurd decision which heavily penalises a sector already strained by the sacrifices imposed by the EU, which have reduced fleets and jobs.

What is more, in countries such as Italy, over the last 40 years, dependence on the supply of fish from third countries has increased from 30% to 85%, fostering unfair competition from non-EU countries, which have no rules on the exploitation of marine resources.

Fisheries and aquaculture are strategic resources for food sovereignty and the Mediterranean diet, and it is unacceptable that they are now marginalised. Merging them into a single fund and including them in the Ocean Pact may dilute even extremely important specific support, such as that for the renewal of the EU fleet, which appears to be increasingly outdated, given the worrying increase in accidents at sea.

In the light of the above:

1. Will the Commission swiftly restore the fisheries and aquaculture funds that were cut in the budget forecast for 2028 to 2034?
2. Does it intend to reinstate specific measures for the renewal of Member States' fleets, as provided for in the previous European fund (EMFAF) currently in force?

Submitted: 23.7.2025

Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(16 September 2025)

1. The proposed global funding structure of the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is fundamentally different from the current one. It will be more streamlined, flexible and impactful. To this end, it has three main headings: (i) National and Regional Partnership Plans, (ii) Competitiveness Fund, and (iii) Global Europe Fund.

In this new architecture, fisheries and aquaculture producers remain the lifeblood of Europe's coastal communities and economies. Fisheries and ocean related policies are well reflected in all three major building blocks of the new MFF. Under the National and Regional Plans, EU fishers and aquaculture producers can have access to the big pot, through the national plans submitted by Member States. A ringfenced amount of EUR 2 billion has been specifically earmarked for support to the Common Fisheries Policy. In addition, there will be access to the EU Facility for data collection, fisheries control and digital solutions. Furthermore, the European Competitiveness Fund will support investments in sustainable blue economy, including fisheries, and Horizon Europe will support ocean observation, research and innovation. In addition, Global Europe will support EU Ocean diplomacy and strengthen EU's capacity to fight against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

All these combined ensure a robust financial support for EU fishers, aquaculture producers and ocean related policies, with the potential to go significantly beyond the amounts foreseen under the current MFF.

2. Productive investments, fleet modernisation as well as support to energy transition of the European fleet, as well as compensation for cessation of fishing, can all be financed under the new MFF ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ As in the previous programming periods, this type of public support is subject to compliance with the Common fisheries policy and World Trade Organisation rules.