

EN
E-003831/2025
Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(28.1.2026)

The Commission is actively involved in the ongoing North East Atlantic coastal States' negotiations, engaging in both multilateral and bilateral discussions with counterparts to reduce fishing pressure on pelagic stocks, particularly mackerel. The Commission is concerned with the prospect of continued overfishing and arrangements based on unilaterally inflated quotas by some parties. Sustainable fisheries management is indeed not optional – it is vital for protecting the resource, the EU seafood sector, and communities that depend on it.

The Commission will carefully assess any measures by third countries against the legal thresholds under Regulation 1026/2012, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2077/2025 on non-sustainable fishing by third countries¹, while ensuring full respect for international law. The Regulation applies to the fisheries-related activities and policies of third countries in order to ensure the long-term conservation of stocks of common interest to the Union and those third countries.

The EU also has trade defence tools to ensure fair competition, such as anti-dumping or safeguard measures, that the Commission could trigger if conditions for their application are met. The competitiveness of the EU industries, and sustainable fishing are key priorities for the Commission.

¹ OJ L, 2025/2077, 14.10.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/2077/oj>.