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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission is aware of the difficulties faced by the fisheries sector and has ensured that the needs are covered in its proposals for the three main Funds under the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). Activities that are currently covered under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) can also be covered under the future National and Regional Partnership Plans of the Member States.

EUR 2 billion is reserved as a minimum allocation for implementing some areas of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). These activities include support for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, marine conservation and restoration, and the compensation of operators in crisis or exceptional circumstances, including cessation of fishing. This is just a minimum amount and Member States can top it up under their overall financial envelope to support additional needs, such as measures in favour of their fishery and aquaculture sectors and of their coastal communities. Additional investments could cover data collection, control, generational renewal, small scale fisheries, etc.

Additional funds could be available from the proposed European Competitiveness Fund (EUR 451 billion) that aims to foster the competitiveness, sustainability and resilience of the fishery and aquaculture sector, and from the Global Europe Instrument (EUR 200 billion) that aims to strengthen partnerships with non-EU countries to support sustainable fisheries and the fight against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

The support available under the next MFF has the potential to go beyond the current EMFAF budget. It will be largely up to the Member States to make strategic choices to use at their best the funds available.