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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.1.2026)

The western Mediterranean management plan¹ (MAP) aims to secure a sustainable and profitable future for the sector relying on healthy fish stocks. The Commission recognises the efforts made by the sector and has worked with all stakeholders to implement the MAP since its adoption.

While the fishing opportunities regulations have gradually reduced trawling effort since 2020, flexibilities have alleviated the reduction, such as recovering fishing days granted by the compensation mechanism which was enhanced in 2025. Moreover, measures under this mechanism are eligible for financing with public funding, including from the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, to those fishers who opt in.

For 2026, the scientific advice provided by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries shows, for many stocks, an increase in biomass and decrease in fishing mortality. However, the majority of stocks remains overfished, and several remain below healthy biological levels. The Commission cannot ignore the bad state of most stocks and only focus on the positive trend: improvement of biomass does not mean healthy stocks.

The scientific advice did not revise its 2024 stock assessments for the MAP and confirmed the same stock assessment model and parameters used to set the 2025 fishing opportunities. In this context, the Commission has no ground to propose an in-year amendment of Regulation (EU) 2025/219².

¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 establishing a multiannual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea and amending Regulation (EU) No 508/2014. OJ L 172, 26.6.2019, p. 1–17.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/219/oj/eng>.