

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004607/25
to the Commission
Giuseppe Lupo (S&D)
(19 November 2025)

Subject: The socioeconomic consequences of prolonging the suspension of fishing activities in the Tyrrhenian Sea

In late October 2025, Italy's Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests (MASAF) tacked a further month onto the compulsory suspension of bottom trawling in the Tyrrhenian Sea by means of Directorial Decree No 0582398/2025. The decision was taken because the allotted fishing day quota for 2025 had been exceeded by 1 000 units, and was justified on grounds that bottom trawlers had already exhausted their yearly allocation. The MASAF's decision will force around 2 000 fishers and the entire local fishing industry to down tools for two straight months, and could further exacerbate the plight of these coastal communities and compromise the objectives of the EMFAF, which strives to support a sustainable blue economy and protect the fisheries sector as a whole.

Could the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

1. In the light of the above and of the fact that it pledged in the European Ocean Pact to propose priority measures to support the fisheries sector, how will the Commission ensure that regulation (EU) 2025/219 is implemented in such a way that it upholds the principle of proportionality and does not penalise small and artisanal fishing enterprises, neither of which were responsible for the excessive fishing effort seen in 2025?
2. Will the Commission, together with the Italian authorities, consider triggering or speeding up income compensation measures financed by the EMFAF with a view to mitigating the socioeconomic impact of the extended bottom fishing suspension?

Submitted: 19.11.2025

Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(19 January 2026)

1. The European Ocean Pact recognises the support to small-scale fisheries as a priority. As announced in the Pact, the Commission adopted a communication on the allocation of fishing opportunities ⁽¹⁾, which encourages Member States to further look into the allocation of fishing opportunities for small-scale fisheries. It is however important to recall that such allocation is decided by the Member States and Italy's decision is outlined in Directorial Decree No 0582398/2025. The Commission understands that the additional closure period, adopted for November 2025, was to ensure that the fleet in the western Mediterranean could meet the conditions of Article 8.1(h) of Council Regulation (EU) 2025/219 ⁽²⁾.
2. The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) ⁽³⁾ helps achieving sustainable fishing activities and strengthening the competitiveness and resilience of the fisheries sector. In the context of the implementation of the Western Mediterranean multiannual plan ⁽⁴⁾ and under specific conditions, the EMFAF can provide for compensation to fishers for the temporary cessation of fishing activities. The Italian authorities can consider mobilising resources from the Italian EMFAF Programme to provide support to the affected operators. The activation of EMFAF financial support must be in line with the specific objectives of the Italian EMFAF Programme, as agreed between the Commission and Italy.

⁽¹⁾ Communication on transparency and good governance in quota allocation encourages Member States to use Article 17 of the Common Fisheries Policy to promote sustainable fishing practices and better support small-scale and coastal fishers (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/6227/oj/eng/pdf>).

⁽²⁾ Council Regulation (EU) 2025/219 of 30 January 2025 fixing for 2025 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004.

⁽⁴⁾ 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.