

EN

E-000700/2026

Answer given by Mr Kadis  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(30.4.2026)

Several financial support options are available, both under the Portuguese European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) programme and State aid.

EMFAF can be used for: (i) repair of destroyed maritime infrastructure, such as fishing ports, auction halls, landing sites and shelters, storage facilities; (ii) replacement of fishing, aquaculture, and seafood processing equipment, such as nets, refrigerated storage equipment, etc, and (iii) compensation for temporary cessation of activities for fishers, provided that Portugal officially recognises the storms as a natural disaster<sup>1</sup>.

The purchase of new fishing vessels is not permitted under EMFAF, but where damage still allows for feasible repairs, EMFAF can support on-board investments aimed at improving working and safety conditions.

Portugal may also consider granting State aid to support the fisheries sector: (i) under the "*de minimis*" Regulation<sup>2</sup>, aid of EUR 30 000/40 000 over three fiscal years per beneficiary may be granted to compensate for storm-related losses (e.g. repair costs) or, in the case of outermost regions, to finance new vessels under 12 meter; (ii) under a compensation regime pursuant to Art 49 of the FIBER Regulation<sup>3</sup>, without notification to the Commission: either to cover repair costs, or loss of revenue for fishers for six months if their production tools (i.e. their vessels) are destroyed, provided that Portugal officially recognises the storms as a natural disaster. The compensated costs must be directly linked to the storms damage and (iii) an exceptional compensation regime could also be notified to the Commission under the State aid Guidelines for fisheries<sup>4</sup>, following similar conditions and covering the same eligible costs as the FIBER aids. The aid must be notified to the Commission.

---

<sup>1</sup> Within the meaning of Article 21.2.e of the 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.

<sup>2</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No 717/2014 of 27 June 2014 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid in the fishery and aquaculture sector (OJ L 190, 28.6.2014, p. 45).

<sup>3</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/2473 of 14 December 2022 declaring certain categories of aid to undertakings active in the production, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (OJ L 327, 21.12.2022, p. 82).

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 107, 23.3.2023, p. 1. (Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 1.1).