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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.5.2026)

The Commission is continuously monitoring and projecting potential impacts of the situation in the Middle East. While there are no immediate concerns for the EU's security of supply, prices, particularly for refined products like diesel face significant volatility. This has direct consequences and dire economic and social implications for the EU, in particular for primary agricultural production and fisheries.

As regards fisheries, pursuant to article 26(2) of the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) Regulation, the Commission has activated a crisis support mechanism in case of an exceptional event causing a significant disruption of markets¹.

The Commission invites Member States to proceed with the relevant processes to make support available to the sectors under their national EMFAF programmes and in line with the established EU rules.

The Commission is aware that the situation may require going beyond EMFAF to support as efficiently as possible undertakings whose economic activity is directly hit by this crisis. Therefore, the Commission has adopted a temporary State aid framework which will allow aid for the primary production of fishery and aquaculture products². Member States will be able to use the new temporary crisis framework, in addition to the standard State aid rules applicable to the fishery sector, to support the sector. The Commission has also put forward the AccelerateEU initiative³ to alleviate the situation for businesses and consumers.

Considering the importance of learning from crisis situations, the Commission underlines that sustainable business models and energy transition remain pivotal for the resilience of fisheries sector and its competitiveness.

¹ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/889 of 16 April 2026 establishing the situation in the Middle East as of 28 February 2026 as the occurrence of an exceptional event causing a significant disruption of markets: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2026/889/oj.

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_894.

³ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/strategy/accelerateeu-strengthen-eu-energy-resilience_en.