

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001478/26
to the Commission**

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(10 April 2026)

Subject: EU support for the Cormorant Management Advisory Group

The growing great cormorant population across Europe is increasing pressure on fisheries, aquaculture and biodiversity, resulting in estimated annual losses exceeding EUR 350 million. Due to the cormorants' migratory nature and cross-border impact, national measures to address the problem have proven insufficient. Coordinated European action is required.

A framework for a European cormorant management plan, developed under the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC), provides a science-based and widely supported approach. Its development benefited from EU funding, including under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), demonstrating the framework's alignment with EU priorities.

To support implementation, 24 countries have nominated experts to the Cormorant Management Advisory Group (CMAG). Establishing a dedicated secretariat for the CMAG would ensure coordination, data collection and coherent implementation, when reporting back to Member States and the European Parliament.

An annual investment of EUR 500 000 (EUR 3 million over six years) would be proportionate and cost-effective given the scale of the damage.

1. Is the Commission willing to allocate EUR 3 million over six years, including under the EMFAF, to establish and operate a CMAG secretariat?
2. Does the Commission intend to appoint representatives from its Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and from its Directorate-General for Environment to the CMAG?
3. What concrete steps will the Commission take to coordinate implementation of the EIFAAC framework at European level?

Submitted: 10.4.2026

Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(11 June 2026)

1. The Commission recognises the benefits of EU coordination in managing the cormorant fisheries conflict and encourages Member States to cooperate and coordinate their management measures. The Commission provided the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) a grant under the European Maritime, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) to develop a framework for a European Management Plan for the Great Cormorant. Regrettably, the Commission is unable to provide EIFAAC with further funding for the establishment and operation of the Cormorant Management Advisory Group (CMAG) Secretariat, particularly in light of significant reductions in the EMFAF's direct expenditure budget. Moreover, the EMFAF Work Programme 2026-2027 has been approved by the EMFAF Committee and has been adopted. However, Member States have possibilities to use various funding streams to implement measures addressing cormorants-fisheries conflicts.

2. The Commission has nominated representatives from its Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and Directorate-General for Environment to the CMAG to closely follow its activities and to avoid duplication of efforts.

3. The Commission will continue to carefully monitor the issue and support Member States and the aquaculture sector by promoting good practices and research and innovation, in close cooperation with experts and the affected stakeholders and communities. The Commission will continue to organise 'Structured Dialogues on managing cormorant conflicts' with Member States' authorities. The Commission is also looking into possibilities to support potential pan-European counts of the wintering population and breeding colonies in 2027, as well as further research on the species impact to fisheries.
