

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001500/26
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(13 April 2026)**

Subject: European fisheries

Representatives of the European fisheries sector have recently warned that rising fuel prices are creating a severe economic situation for many fleet segments. According to industry stakeholders, in some cases fuel costs exceed the income generated by the sale of fishery products, placing certain fishing operations at risk of becoming economically unsustainable.

The sector has therefore called for the rapid mobilisation of available crisis support mechanisms under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, as well as for temporary and targeted support measures, including possible adjustments to state aid rules and exceptional market measures to mitigate the economic impact of the situation. Proposals have also been made to facilitate access to strategic fuel stocks in EU ports as part of longer-term structural solutions.

Considering the strain that high energy prices place on the fisheries sector, how does the Commission evaluate the prices' impact on economic viability, and is it prepared to revise or expand existing EU support instruments to better address the crisis and protect sustainable fishing activities?

Submitted: 13.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(28 May 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 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission has activated a crisis support mechanism in case of an exceptional event causing a significant disruption of markets ⁽²⁾.

The Commission invites Member States 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 consulted Member States on a Temporary state aid framework, which will allow aid for the primary production of fishery products.

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 initiative ⁽³⁾ 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 the fisheries sector and its competitiveness.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1139/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ 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.

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