

EN

E-001747/2026

Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.6.2026)

1. Member States are in charge of fisheries control in their waters. The Commission receives and assesses sightings reports transmitted by Member States on alleged non-compliant fishing activities by third-country vessels in the Mediterranean. They are examined with the support of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) where relevant.

2. The EU has a comprehensive framework to address such situations, in particular Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 on fisheries control¹ and Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 on Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing². Member States have responsibilities as coastal States, including for surveillance, reporting and, where applicable, transmission to the flag State. Where sufficient information is available, the Commission may request the flag State to investigate and report on the outcome.

3. The Commission will continue to assess the information received and to use the tools available under EU and international rules where the legal conditions are met. The IUU Regulation already provides for cooperation with third countries and, where appropriate, for the identification of non-cooperating third countries and related trade measures. Any such step must be based on substantial evidence and its comprehensive assessment.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1224/oj/eng>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/1005/oj/eng>.