

EN

E-002427/2026

Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.8.2026)

The EU Coastal Communities Strategy¹ promotes a place-based approach to coastal development. It encourages Member States to use the flexibility of the future National and Regional Partnership Plans under the funding period 2028-2034, to address the strategy's objectives and local needs, in cooperation with national, regional and local authorities. The Common Maritime Agenda² can support regional cooperation and provide a basin-level forum for regional actions specific to the Black Sea. The Communication on the EU's eastern border regions³ set out an overarching plan for more secure, resilient and attractive places.

Future carbon farming activities in coastal ecosystems may be certified⁴ for CO₂ removals thanks to the conservation, restoration, or management of these ecosystems, including by ports⁵. Any credits accrued may then be sold on the carbon market to offset emissions. The Commission is also working on a regulated nature credits market through the Roadmap towards Nature Credits.⁶

The Strategy acknowledges that despite substantial protection efforts coastal and marine ecosystems remain under pressure, which risks undermining also the blue economy sectors. In areas under strict environmental protection regimes, economic resilience relies on diversifying towards low-impact activities. The Commission highlights the diversification of sustainable blue economy models (including pesca-tourism), community initiatives, local value chains, blue bioeconomy clusters, nature-based solutions and co-management partnerships (including fishers) for protected areas as possible solutions. EU funding⁷ is available for biodiversity, climate resilience, sustainable water management and circular economy.

¹ COM (2026) 530 final.

² <https://black-sea-maritime-agenda.ec.europa.eu/>.

³ COM(2026) 82 final.

⁴ Under Regulation (EU) 2024/3012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 establishing a Union certification framework for permanent carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products.

⁵ Such as mangrove forests, tidal marshes and seagrass meadows.

⁶ COM(2025) 374 final. The roadmap has a timeline for implementation until 2027.

⁷ Cohesion Policy funds, European Maritime, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) and LIFE programme.