

EN

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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.8.2026)

1. The Commission is cooperating with Member States to improve the implementation of the EU environmental legislation, notably the Marine Strategy Framework Directive¹ to achieve good environmental status. Within the Helsinki Convention for the Baltic the European Union supports regional commitments to achieve the same goal. The Commission also reinforces the EU's zero-pollution agenda by targeting nutrient pollution, hazardous chemicals and marine litter, focussing on enforcing rules to reduce pollution at source, as through the evaluation of the Nitrate Directive² and the revised Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive³.

In parallel, the Commission is strengthening the science and knowledge base for action by improving ocean research, data and knowledge through initiatives like OceanEye⁴. This is intended to support better-informed decisions on pollution, biodiversity and climate, alongside work on an Ocean and Water Research and Innovation Strategy.

As regards fisheries management, with the 'Baltic project' the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, its partners and the Commission services work on further improving the scientific advice by widening the considerations covered. A first concrete step is a three-year research project which aims to build the scientific and operational foundation for ecosystem-based fisheries management in the western Baltic Sea. Moreover, the Commission is committed to continue the rebuilding trajectories for the fishers.

2. For its proposal on the Baltic fishing opportunities for 2027, the Commission will consider all relevant aspects, including ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, as set out in Article 2 of the Regulation establishing the Common Fisheries Policy⁵.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/56/oj/eng>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/1991/676/oj/eng>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/3019/oj/eng>.

⁴ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/science-observation-and-data/oceaneye_en.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1380/oj/eng>.