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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission sends a roadmap to each third country together with the pre-identification decision. It reflects the shortcomings identified and the measures expected, providing the framework for assessing progress. This practice was also followed with Panama.

The dialogue between the Commission and pre-identified third countries is continuous and progress-based, without a predetermined deadline. Its duration depends on the nature of the shortcomings and the pace and effectiveness of the measures taken. The dialogue focuses on cooperation, technical engagement and sustainable improvements. The Commission clarifies shortcomings and expected measures, provides guidance and expertise, and reviews progress.

Countries are given reasonable time to implement reforms and demonstrate tangible progress. The responsibility for adopting, implementing and enforcing the necessary measures remains with third country authorities. The Commission remains closely engaged with Panama and assesses progress based on evidence.

The EU and Panama have a comprehensive and positive relationship under the EU-Central America Association Agreement¹. Its trade pillar has been applied by both the EU and Panama since 2013, and the agreement including its political and cooperation pillar entered into force in 2024. Sustainable development is an integral part of this relationship. Although the dialogue on illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is conducted outside the Agreement's institutional framework and under a separate legal basis, it supports shared objectives. IUU fishing and other key aspects such as trade, investment and Global Gateway were discussed in the 2nd EU-Panama bilateral consultations held in October 2025².

¹ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22012A1215\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22012A1215(01)).

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/panama-2nd-bilateral-consultations-eu-takes-place-brussels_en.