

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003255/26
to the Commission
Asger Christensen (Renew)
(11 August 2026)**

Subject: Sampling in mussel fisheries under the Fisheries Control Regulation

According to media reports, Vildsund Blue, a Danish mussel company, has been forced to suspend production because Denmark still does not have an approved sampling plan for mussels ⁽¹⁾. It appears that the Commission does not wish to approve a new plan, as the revised Fisheries Control Regulation will enter into force in 2027. As a consequence of this administrative decision, an overwhelmingly bureaucratic control regime is in place that is resulting in business closures, loss of earnings and people in remote areas being made redundant.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. Does the Commission think it is fair to businesses, members of the public and Member States to refuse to approve a sampling plan on the basis of rules that will not apply until 2027, when the consequence is that viable businesses are being put at risk of closure?
2. Does the Commission take the view that the way the Danish authorities are handling the case — with three officials from the Danish Fisheries Agency being physically present to monitor mussel fishers who sort all the mussels by hand — is in line with the principle of proportionality and effectiveness, and thus constitutes an appropriate application of EU rules?
3. Will the Commission provide compensation or other financial support to companies that are suffering documented losses because the sampling plan has not been approved? If not, why not?

Submitted: 11.8.2026

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(11 September 2026)**

Article 60(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 ('Fisheries Control Regulation') ⁽¹⁾ established the general obligation to weigh all fishery products immediately after landing in a Member State, while allowing for certain derogations, including on the basis of sampling plans approved by the Commission.

On 10 August 2026, the Commission adopted detailed implementing rules for weighing fishery products, including new conditions for applying these derogations ⁽²⁾.

The Commission services have been in contact with the Danish authorities and are working with them to find an interim solution to the issue of weighing unsorted mussel landings against the background of the pending entry into application of the new implementing rules on 11 January 2027.

Under the Fisheries Control Regulation, Member States must establish the necessary measures for ensuring effective control, inspection and enforcement of all activities relevant to the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and on the basis of risk management.

It is therefore for the Danish competent authorities to determine, on a risk-based approach, which control arrangements are necessary to ensure compliance with the CFP rules.

¹ <https://nyheder.tv2.dk/samfund/2026-08-01-eu-regel-skaber-muslingekrise-paa-mors>

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Union control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 (OJ L, 2023/2842, 20.12.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2842/oj>)
Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy, amending Regulations (EC) No 847/96, (EC) No 2371/2002, (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 768/2005, (EC) No 2115/2005, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) No 509/2007, (EC) No 676/2007, (EC) No 1098/2007, (EC) No 1300/2008, (EC) No 1342/2008 and repealing Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1627/94 and (EC) No 1966/2006 (OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1224/oj>).

⁽²⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1932 of 10 August 2026 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 as regards the weighing of fishery products, their control and inspection, and the adoption of sampling plans, control plans and common control programmes (OJ L, 2026/1932, 11.8.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2026/1932/oj).

Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 ⁽³⁾ establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund ('EMFAF Regulation') does not provide for any compensation to companies which are suffering losses because a sampling plan has not been approved by the Commission. Notwithstanding, such companies could benefit from other type of support, in line with the EMFAF Regulation.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 (OJ L 247, 13.7.2021, pp. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1139/oj>).