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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.10.2026)

The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) remains the primary framework for addressing non-compliance with the measures applicable to common dolphinfish. The Commission will continue to support the effective implementation of the GFCM international joint inspection scheme¹ (JIS), including with the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA). It will also continue to pursue non-compliance actively through these channels based on the evidence gathered through the GFCM JIS and GFCM members which have the primary responsibility for detecting and addressing potential non-compliance. EFCA coordinates the participation of the EU in JIS as regards the deployment of seaborne and airborne means of control.

Inspections in 2026 in the frame of JIS for the dolphinfish fishery identified several possible cases of noncompliance which have been reported to the GFCM. Follow-up actions should be taken by the flag members.

Cases of non-compliance identified in 2025 and 2026 have been presented and discussed at the Compliance Committee in September 2026.

Regulation (EU) 1026/2012² provides a framework for the EU to act in relation to non-EU countries that allow non-sustainable fishing of stocks of common interest. Whether it could apply to a given situation and whether the conditions it lays down are met, would require a case-by-case assessment based on the best available scientific evidence, and would take account of the outcome of the relevant GFCM procedures. The Commission is monitoring developments in the Mediterranean Sea, in light of the international law and of the Regulation, which remains an instrument of last resort, given the priority that is attached to the cooperation with non-EU countries in regional organisations.

¹ Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/17 on an international joint inspection and surveillance scheme for common dolphinfish fisheries outside waters under national jurisdiction in the Mediterranean Sea.

² REGULATION (EU) 1026/2012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 October 2012 on certain measures for the purpose of the conservation of fish stocks in relation to countries allowing non-sustainable fishing, as amended by REGULATION (EU) 2025/2077:
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32012R1026>.