



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Fisheries Policy Mediterranean and Black Sea  
The Director

Brussels  
MARE.D.3/VG

**Subject: Petition to ring-fence 25% of the EMFF for nature at sea**

Dear Petitioner,

In the context of the European Green Deal, the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems and the achievement of a good environmental status in the marine environment are essential priorities for the Commission. Therefore, the scope of Union financial support should reflect this ambition. In this respect, the Commission proposal for the EMFF post 2020 includes support for actions contributing to biodiversity, for example the promotion of sustainable, low-impact and low-carbon fishing activities, the management of marine protected areas, the protection of species in accordance with the Habitats Directive, the collection of marine litter from the sea and the promotion of sustainable and energy-efficient aquaculture production. The provisional agreement reached by the co-legislators on the future EMFF does not undermine this ambition.

Even if there is no specific binding target or financial ring-fencing for the protection of biodiversity in the EMFF, this fund will contribute to a large extent to the climate and environmental objectives of the Union and to the achievement of the overall climate and biodiversity spending objectives provisionally agreed as part of the next Multi-annual Financial Framework. In this respect, the Commission will work with Member States to make sure that their EMFF programmes concretely contribute to the achievement of these overall targets. For this purpose, each programme will be monitored through a system of climate and environmental markers.

I want to assure you that the Commission will do its utmost in the upcoming programming process to maximise the contribution of the EMFF towards the achievement of the objectives of the European Green Deal and to address the green transition throughout the next generation of programmes.

Yours faithfully,

Lena ANDERSSON PENCH

c.c.: VASCEGA Marius  
RAZMISLAVICIUTE-PALIONIENE Agnė

