



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Fisheries Policy Mediterranean and Black Sea

Brussels
MARE.D/VV

Dear Petitioner,

The Commission is highly concerned by the issue of fleet subsidies and upholds strongly and consistently the position that fleet subsidies contributing to overcapacity and overfishing are harmful and should not be allowed.

The European Union is fully committed to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and especially the sustainable use of oceans (SDG 14). In this context, it is committed to promoting a sustainable blue economy which is consistent with maritime spatial planning, the conservation of biological resources and the achievement of good environmental status, to prohibiting certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, to eliminating subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing as well as to refraining from introducing new such subsidies.

In addition, in the course of World Trade Organisation negotiations, at the 2002 World Summit of Sustainable Development and at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the EU made a commitment to eliminate subsidies contributing to fisheries overcapacity and overfishing.

In line with the above, the Commission proposal on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2021-2027 includes support for investments on board that improve safety, working conditions or energy efficiency, under the following two conditions:

1. the investment must go beyond the legal standard in force;
2. the supported operation must not increase the fishing capacity of the vessel.

Therefore, if the investment on board requires additional fishing capacity for their installation, the corresponding renovation of the vessel is not eligible to support. Such renovation should be financed with private money in accordance with the entry/exit scheme as per Article 23(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy, while the equipment or facility can be supported by the EMFF.

During the ongoing negotiations on the EMFF, the Commission has reaffirmed its position and has made it clear on several occasions that it could not agree with amendments that would introduce harmful subsidies in the EMFF 2021-2027.

Yours faithfully,

Veronika VEITS
Acting Director