



Zemkopības ministrija

Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia

Republikas laukums 2, Rīga, LV-1981, Latvia, phone +371 67027010, fax +371 67027512, e-mail pasts@zm.gov.lv, www.zm.gov.lv

Rīga

30.11.2022 Nr. 4.3-18/1946/2022

Uz 08.09.2022

Nr.

Javier Ojeda
Chair
Aquaculture Advisory Council
Rue Montoyer, 31 - 1000 Brussels

Subject: Call for action on raising costs of aquaculture production

Dear Chair,

Referring to your letter of September 8, 2022 regarding the call for action on raising costs of aquaculture production, I would like to inform you on the following.

Aquaculture enterprises in Latvia are provided with support for partial compensation of additional costs within the type of action "*Compensation in fisheries in emergency cases*" of the Latvian *Programme for the development of fisheries for 2021-2027* co-financed by the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (Hereafter – EMFAF). Aquaculture enterprises receive support for partial compensation of drastically raised costs for purchased and consumed natural gas, liquefied gas, electricity, fish feed and grain used for fish feeding in the period started from March 1, 2022 until the end of the year. The first call for project applications was announced in the middle of summer. Currently, the third call for project applications is open, in which aquaculture enterprises can receive support for the third quarter of this year.

Unfortunately, the European Commission has limited in the Article 2 of the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/500 of 25 March 2022 *establishing the military aggression of Russia against Ukraine as the occurrence of an exceptional event causing a significant disruption of markets* that expenditures within exceptional event shall be eligible only if it is incurred between 24 February and 31 December 2022.

It would be very important for aquaculture sector that the Aquaculture Advisory Council could advocate to the European Commission on necessity to extend EMFAF support period in the aforementioned decision also for the next year, because the extremely high production costs and economic situation is still standing very hard and therefore aquaculture sector will need further exceptional support also in year 2023. A similar period extension is applied in other financial instruments.

Kind regards, Normunds Riekstiņš
Deputy Head of Managing Authority
Director of Fisheries Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Republic of Latvia