



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/A2/EGG (2022)

Subject: AAC recommendation on EMFAF for 2021-2027

Dear Mr. Brian Thomsen,

I would like to thank you for your mail of 14 November 2022 including the “*Recommendations on EMFAF for 2021-2027*”. Here below, you can find our reaction to each of the recommendations raised, numbered as per your original document.

III 1. Ensure the continuity of support and a timely transition.

The legal framework allows a smooth transition between the EMFF and the EMFAF and avoids gap in support. Under the EMFF, expenditure for eligible operations can be incurred until 31 December 2023. Under the EMFAF, expenditure can be incurred as of 1 January 2021, including retroactively before the adoption of the EMFAF programme of the Member State concerned.

III 2. Adapt funding to face crises.

To address the current crisis caused by Russia’s unjustified aggression against Ukraine, the Commission made several financial packages available to support the fishery, aquaculture and processing sectors. Aside from the temporary state aid framework, our sector can count on the following:

- The crisis mechanism of the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), allowing Member States to use their EMFAF allocation to provide financial compensation for economic losses and additional costs related to the disruption caused by the crisis, and to compensate producer organisations if they use the storage mechanism of the common organisation of the markets. This crisis

Mr. Brian Thomsen
Chairman of the AAC
brian@danskakvakultur.dk
Rue de la Science, 10
B – 1000 Brussels
Belgium

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 22991111
Office: J-99 05/014 - Tel. direct line +32 229-50483

charlina.vitcheva@ec.europa.eu

mechanism can be implemented immediately by Member States without legal risks, even if their EMFAF programme is not yet adopted.

- The legislative amendment to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) ⁽¹⁾ that introduces crisis measures in the form of financial compensations to operators for their income forgone and additional costs and to producer organisations implementing the storage mechanism of the common organisation of the markets; as well as temporary cessation support for those fishers who have had to interrupt their operations due to the impact of Russia's unjustified aggression against Ukraine.

The Commission has called on all Member States to ensure a swift implementation of these measures; and offers supporting therein.

As regards the completion of investments disrupted by the crisis, Member States can re-design the supported operations to take into account new parameters and new costs. Beneficiaries should liaise with the managing authority of the Member States concerned.

III 3. Create a platform to provide guidance and examples of MS measures.

The EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism (AAM) will create, maintain and support the update of a specific dedicated website for EU aquaculture. The website aims to provide a one-stop shop for knowledge and good practices about sustainable aquaculture in the EU and it aims to efficiently disseminate this knowledge. It will also include any other information relevant for aquaculture, for example information on EU funding opportunities for aquaculture such as the EMFAF. We are currently discussing with the contractor how to best make this information available on the website. We take note of your recommendation and will consider it in the discussions.

The exchange among EU Member States in the context of the Open Method of Coordination on aquaculture also provides an opportunity to learn about concrete measures implemented as well as good practices in supporting concrete measures with EU funding.

III 4. Provide transparency on the funding related to aquaculture activities.

EMFAF national programmes for 2021-2027 are published, upon adoption, on DG MARE's website ⁽²⁾. A brief information note accompanies this publication, providing an overview of the financial resources allocated to the different priorities and specific objectives, including aquaculture. Moreover, the Commission reports on the implementation of the EMFAF on a public website ('open data platform') ⁽³⁾, and

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/1278 - formally adopted by the co-legislators on 18 July 2022 - introducing amendments to Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 as regards specific measures to alleviate the consequences of the military aggression of Russia against Ukraine on fishing activities and to mitigate the effects of the market disruption caused by that military aggression on the supply chain of fishery and aquaculture products.

⁽²⁾ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/funding/emfaf-programmes-2021-2027_en

⁽³⁾ [Open Data Portal for the European Structural Investment Funds - European Commission | Data | European Structural and Investment Funds \(europa.eu\)](#)

Member States must publish a timetable of the planned calls for proposals and the list of operations selected for support.

III 5. The Member States should include information about the administrative costs

Member State can allocate up to 6% of their EMFAF allocation to technical assistance to support the administrative costs for managing and monitoring the fund. That expenditure is specifically described and planned in the EMFAF programmes and is reported regularly by Member States.

I hope you find the above information useful and I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Pascale COLSON, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (Pascale.COLSON@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.62.73), who will forward them to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

c.c.: Cécile Fouquet: cecile.fouquet@aac-europe.org