



## Fisheries: Commission proposes second package of crisis measures to support fishery and aquaculture sectors

Brussels, 13 April 2022

Today, the Commission proposed a [legislative amendment to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2014–20 \(EMFF\)](#), which would allow for additional crisis measures to support the EU fishery and aquaculture sectors in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This complements the [first package](#) of crisis measures adopted under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) on 25 March. It comprises financial compensation for additional costs, for income forgone and for the storage of products, as well as for the temporary cessation of fishing activities where they are currently unsafe.

Virginijus **Sinkevičius**, Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, said: *"The fishery and aquaculture sectors are heavily impacted by the war in Ukraine. There are still financial resources available under the EMFF. With this proposal, we give the possibility to Member States to reallocate them to specific measures mitigating the socio-economic impact of the crisis."*

### Using funds left over from 2014–20 for crisis support

The military aggression of Russia against Ukraine has increased the prices of energy and raw materials, generating very high additional operating costs and squeezing profit margins in the fishery, aquaculture and seafood processing sectors. The war has also led to a precautionary interruption of fishing activities in certain areas. Once today's proposal has been adopted, Member States will have the possibility to quickly grant financial support for the additional costs and economic losses stemming from the crisis, in particular:

- **Financial compensation for the temporary cessation of fishing activities** where the military aggression of Russia against Ukraine jeopardises the security of fishing operations. This compensation is not subject to the financial ceiling and to the maximum duration established for the other cases of temporary cessation.
- Financial compensation to **producer organisations which store fishery or aquaculture products** in accordance with the storage mechanism of Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 (common organisation of the markets).
- Financial compensation to operators of the fishery and aquaculture sector (including the processing sector) for **their income forgone, and for additional costs** they incurred due to the market disruption caused by the military aggression of Russia against Ukraine and its effects on the supply chain of fishery and aquaculture products.

The proposal introduces these compensation schemes in existing EMFF measures to facilitate their quick implementation.

The proposal also introduces flexibility mechanisms to facilitate the quick implementation of these new measures:

- A simplified procedure for amending the operational programmes of Member States as regards the introduction of these measures, including the reallocation of financial resources.
- Retroactive eligibility of expenditure as of 24 February 2022 for these measures.
- The possibility of reallocating the fixed amounts initially reserved for certain EMFF measures (i.e. control and enforcement, data collection) to the new crisis related measures.

### Next Steps

This is a legislative proposal which will need to be adopted by the European Parliament and to the Council, through the ordinary legislative procedure, before it can take effect.

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