



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 3.6.2019  
C(2019)4126 final*

*Mr Daniel GÜNTHER  
President of the Bundesrat  
Leipziger Straße 3 - 4  
D – 10117 BERLIN*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Bundesrat for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 as regards certain provisions for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union {COM (2019)48}.*

*The Commission welcomes the Bundesrat's general support for the proposal. It has been adopted by the European Parliament and the Council. The Regulation was published in the Official Journal on 27 March 2019<sup>1</sup>.*

*The Commission agrees with the Bundesrat that one of the main objectives of the European Union for the future relationship with the United Kingdom is to maintain access to United Kingdom waters. This is established in the Political Declaration setting out the framework for the future relationship between the European Union and the United Kingdom<sup>2</sup>, in line with the European Council (Art. 50) Guidelines of 23 March 2018, which stated that 'In the overall context of the Free Trade Agreement, existing reciprocal access to fishing waters and resources should be maintained'. In their 25 November 2018 declaration regarding the Withdrawal Agreement and the Political Declaration<sup>3</sup>, Member States have reiterated that 'a fisheries agreement is a matter of priority, and should build on, inter alia, existing reciprocal access and quota shares'.*

*Negotiations between the Commission and the United Kingdom on the future relationship will be based on a mandate adopted by the Council, where Member States will be able to further elaborate the interests and priorities for the EU in relation to an economic partnership, including an agreement on fisheries between the United Kingdom and the EU.*

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/497 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 March 2019 amending Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 as regards certain rules relating to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union, OJ L 85 I, 27.03/2019, p.22.

<sup>2</sup> Official Journal of the European Union, C 66 I, 19 February 2019, p.185.

<sup>3</sup> EUCO XT 20017/18

*The Commission on 12 June 2018 adopted a proposal for a new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2021-2027<sup>4</sup>. It is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council. The elements of the Opinion relating to a possible extension of the scope of support should be subject to these inter institutional negotiations.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Bundesrat and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Karmenu Vella  
Member of the Commission*

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<sup>4</sup> COM(2018)390 final