



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Mr Călin POPESCU-  
TĂRICEANU  
President of the Senat  
Calea 13 Septembrie nr. 1-3  
Sector 5  
RO – 050711 BUCHAREST*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Regulation No (EU) 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council {COM(2018) 390 final}.*

*This proposal establishes the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund for the 2021-2027 period. It aims to support the achievement of the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy, to foster the implementation of the Union maritime policy and to strengthen international ocean governance. The proposal builds upon the Commission proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework of 2021-2027 of 2 May 2018<sup>1</sup>.*

*The Commission welcomes the conclusion of the Senat that this proposal respects the principle of subsidiarity. At the same time, the Commission takes note of the assessment of the Senat that the proposal does not respect the principle of proportionality. In this context, the Commission notes the concerns of the Senat regarding the allocation of fishing quotas for the Black Sea and the request to re-negotiate Romania's fishing capacity prior to the application of the Regulation establishing the Maritime and Fisheries Fund.*

*The Commission would like to recall that the above issues are outside the scope of the proposed Regulation. Fishing capacity is defined in Regulation No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy<sup>2</sup>, which lays down capacity ceilings for each Member State*

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2018) 322 final/2

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 354 of 28 December 2013

*and provisions on management of fishing capacity. Quota allocation is also provided in accordance with this Regulation. The Commission proposal on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund is consistent with the Regulation No 1380/2013.*

*The Commission further takes note of the Senat's recommendation to reconsider the proposal in line with the needs of the fishing and aquaculture sector, the strategic context of the Black Sea Basin, the implementation obligations of the Common Fisheries Policy and the importance of inland fishing. In this regard, the Commission highlights Article 9(5) of the proposal, which foresees the development by the Commission of an analysis indicating the common strengths and weaknesses of each sea basin with regard to the achievement of the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy. On this basis and in addition to the analysis foreseen in Article 9(3)(a) of the proposal, national programmes should maximise their contribution to the priorities of the fund in a strategic manner by selecting the relevant areas of support and defining the corresponding budgetary allocations and eligibility rules.*

*The Senat also recommends an increase of the financial allocation for Romania and of the intensity of public support to certain investments for fisheries and aquaculture. In this context, the Commission outlines that the proposed national allocations are based on the 2014-2020 shares, to ensure stability and transparency. As regards the intervention rates, the Commission considers that a standard aid intensity rate of 50% and a standard co-financing rate of 75% are appropriate to tackle the challenges to be addressed by the fund and to ensure an appropriate participation of the private sector. The Commission also insists on the availability of certain preferential rates, as provided for in Annexes II and III of the proposal.*

*The points made above are based on the proposal presented by the Commission, which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Karmenu Vella  
Member of the Commission*