



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
Fisheries Policy Mediterranean and Black Sea
The Director

Brussels,
MARE/D2/SM(2022)

Giampaolo Buonfiglio
Presidente MEDAC
Via XX Settembre 20
00187
Roma
ITALIA

Subject: DG MARE reply to MEDAC contribution to EMFAF strategies

Ref: Your letter No. 295/2021 ARES(2021)7513492 of 06/12/2021

Dear Mr. Buonfiglio,

Thank you for your letter regarding MEDAC contributions on EMFAF programming.

We consider the EMFAF as a key contributor to the European Green Deal as it could support effectively low-impact and sustainable fishing as well as actions that contribute to a good environmental status in the marine environment.

We would like to see that the new EMFAF programmes do not follow an approach of ‘business as usual’ and draw the necessary lessons from the past. In this respect, we recommend to Member States to adopt a more strategic and innovative approach in terms of the EU key priorities of resilience, green transition and digital transition, as well as clear indications on how they intend to support the adaptation of the sector in a changing context. We also strongly encourage Member States to focus in their new EMFAF programmes on the types of action that will contribute concretely to these horizontal priorities, the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) objectives and EU Green Deal (like the creation of Marine Protected Areas to meet the 30% target of the Biodiversity Strategy or enhanced traceability to support Farm to Fork Strategy actions).

Your proposed ideas in general align with the understanding set out in the Commission Staff Working Document on Sea Basin Analyses (SBA)¹, in particular for the Mediterranean Sea and the toolbox options listed as Annex of the SBA.

¹ SWD(2020) 206 final, 18.09.2020

We believe that the EMFAF, as a small fund, should be used strategically, targeting support for investments that have a clear EU added value. This applies to the full extent for the Mediterranean Sea area where actions with added value need to be prioritised (e.g. sustainable fishing, innovation, collective organisation of the sector, local development, biodiversity conservation, fisheries control, scientific knowledge, etc.). In this respect, we expect that the Member States in the area will build new programmes that focus on results and demonstrate measurably the impacts they intend to achieve.

From our side we strongly encourage Member States to engage actively with all stakeholders through a participative process for formulating the new EMFAF programmes for 2021-2027. Therefore, we invite you to engage with the Member States' authorities to further discussing your priorities and ideas.

Please rest assured that we have taken good note of your proposed ideas.

We remain at your disposal for any additional support and clarification you consider necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Lena ANDERSSON PENCH