

MEDAC Advice EC Public Consultation on MFF

The Commission's Communication 'The Road to the next Multiannual Financial Framework' outlines the upcoming policy and budgetary challenges underpinning the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and gives initial thoughts on how the EU's long-term budget will adjust to the new challenges and priorities. In this context, the MEDAC would like to raise its views on some issues ahead of the legislative proposals expected in July 2025.

During the WG1 online meeting on April 15th, 2025, all members were reminded of the importance of participating in the public consultation launched by the Commission on February 12th 2025, through which stakeholders and citizens can have a direct say on the future EU budget and the supported policies. Moreover, the coordinator indicated the link and the different questionnaires to be answered by May 6th, 2025.

On this topic, the MEDAC along with all the 11 Advisory Councils, unanimously signed an agreed position statement (Ref.111 of 15 April 2025).

MEDAC agrees with the general aims and objectives of the next MFF, in particular with the need to strengthen competitiveness and revitalise the EU economy, and that this can be done and must be done through budget simplification and modernisation measures without however having a negative impact on the primary sector (including fisheries and aquaculture).

Moreover, in the next financial period, the provision of Article 2.1 of Reg. (EU) 2013/1380 (CFP Reg.)¹ must be respected, especially where it provides for a balance in economic, social and employment growth, considering, not least, food safety aspects.

MEDAC believes that a possible shift from a dedicated financial fund - as for fisheries and aquaculture the current EMFAF is - to single Funds for each Member State (MS) would be highly negative and impactful for the sector and contrary to the guidelines of the Treaty and the CFP Regulation itself. Single funds per MS would also lead to a real weakening of the Single Market and there would be less and less of the bond that holds the EU together today. The supply of fish animal protein, as well as jobs and incomes of many European citizens and the viability of coastal communities would be put at risk.

The political and economic uncertainties of the current period, the risk of entry into force of tariffs, as well as the challenges related to climate change, make such impactful changes to the EU budget inappropriate, especially for the fisheries sector which is very sensitive to these challenges.

¹ 'The CFP shall ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term and are managed in a manner consistent with the objectives of achieving economic, social and employment benefits and contributing to the availability of food supplies'

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Finally, MEDAC believes that the financial ceiling made available in the last two programming periods, with the EMFF and EMFAF, should not be further lowered; on the contrary, due to the emerging challenges, it believes it should be increased to keep the sector viable.

If this is not possible, at least the sector should be allowed greater flexibility in spending, in order to cope with the difficulties that are highlighted daily by operators in the sector.

