

From: [REDACTED] (MARE)
Sent: vendredi 1 avril 2022 16:31
To: PREISING Carmen (CAB-SINKEVICIUS); RAZMISLAVICIUTE-PALIONIENE Agne (CAB-SINKEVICIUS)
Subject: Sector's meeting with commissioner

Dear both,
with many thanks to colleagues. Happy to discuss the follow up.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (MARE) [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ec.europa.eu](mailto:[REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu)>

Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 2:58 PM

To: [REDACTED] (MARE) [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ec.europa.eu](mailto:[REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu)>; [REDACTED] (MARE) <[\[REDACTED\]@ec.europa.eu](mailto:[REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu)>; [REDACTED] (MARE) <[\[REDACTED\]@ec.europa.eu](mailto:[REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu)>

Subject: RE: Meeting with commissioner

Dear [REDACTED],

here is my summary from the discussion. If you need anything else, just let me know. I guess you will send out the flash?

Thanks and best
[REDACTED]

Follow up meeting with Fisheries Representatives and Commissioner Sinkevicius on fuel prices (1/4/2022)

Cmsr made an introduction and thanked the participants for their participation in this follow-up call and provided an update of the measures that have been undertaken by DG MARE since the last time he met the sector when he listened to their concerns. He highlighted:

- the EMFAF crises mechanism that can provide support to the sector with almost immediate effect
- state aid – up to EUR 35.000 under the temporary crises state aid framework to support operators, clarifying that they can be granted in addition to the aid under the de minimis - Regulation, and that they are not linked to any costs
- the focus is now with MS to mobilise the funds for the sector
- Banking of unused quota.

The following participants took the floor:

[REDACTED] AAC

- Additional topic to be brought to the attention of the Cmsr: the sector hears about potential shortages of energy supply to the EU (natural gas, oil); there is not only a cost but also a supply problem. Speaking on behalf of aquaculture; the sector would find it

important to be considered from the beginning as part of the essential industries/food producing activities; this kind of decisions not to be left at last moment as it was the case sometimes in the Covid-time.

Europeche, comments on behalf of Europeche and EAPO? who represents small and large scale fishing vessels

- Welcomes the quick reaction of the COM to adopt the EMFAF crises mechanism
- The state aid measures adopted so far will not effectively alleviate the historic energy crises; the EUR 35.000 per company is not a material amount; there was the understanding in some countries like ES that they cannot use both the 30.000 and 35.000; from the Cmr's explanation it seems they can use both, in total EUR 65.000, could you confirm that?
- It would be very useful for the sector if it would be possible to raise further the ceiling per fishing vessel under the temporary staid ait framework.
- Welcomes the EMFAF legislative package under Art 26(2) EMFAF Regulation. According to the national authorities in some MS, if the MS follow the normal bureaucratic procedures, programmes will not be ready so quickly real aid will not reach the MS till autumn. There are some legal obstacles at national level. It is important to make all what is possible to decrease the administrative burden at national level. Can you confirm that it is not necessary to have the programmes finalised and adopted to advance the money to the MS?
- Priority is to continue fishing, nevertheless even with the measures adopted, some fishermen will not be able to continue fishing. It is important to help the fishermen even if the aid would arrive months later. This reinforces also the point that state aid measures should be increased.
- As vessels have been in the ports for long time, the fishing of certain species will be over soon. The banking is already there for 10%, we asked to be increased to 25%, this would secure employment and income. With good recommendations from the scientists we should have recommendations at least for some species.
- What is the COM planning to do with the unused EMFF funding? Do you plan to make changes in this Regulation?
- Is the COM planning to provide extra funding for the fisheries sector in addition to the existing instruments?
- Don't forget about the workers! We sent you a letter about that. We have to think about them too.

Spanish fish processing industry

- ES fish processing industry suffers common issues that were already mentioned by others.
- EMFAF measures are welcome, now the MS have to start implementing them quickly. Can this mechanism be applied also by the processing part of the value chain?
- State aid measures – we need to consider the scope of the different companies, it depends on the size of the company how much aid they need. Context is difficult right now: increase of the costs and decrease of the consumption patterns of all clients chains. Higher aid for the different types of companies should be therefore considered.
- We are facing shortage of the packaging, sunflower and other raw materials, please make an effort to support us with these difficulties.

- Stability and social peace are important in this context.

██████████:

- There is need to make fisheries and aquaculture part of the priority sector, it is important to have fuel supplies to be ready to be used.
- In some countries (FR) national administration made efforts to give access to fuel. In many countries this is not the case in particular for the small scale fisheries sector that does not comply with the respective requirements.
- Decarbonisation needs to be considered, there is no concrete solution on the shelf yet. Proposals how EMFAF can help in this regard in particular to the SSCF are welcome.

██████████ (env NGOs)

- Env NGOs welcome the crises measures packages, you have reacted quickly to the situation.
- In particular measures are welcome as they are not compromising the status of stocks, and they are not in favour of increasing any fishing capacity.
- The measures should try to alleviate not only the current crises but also the climate and biodiversity crises; we appreciate that they don't go against the European Green Deal.

██████████ (polish fish producers association)

- The situation is more complex in the Baltic Sea due to the fact that fisheries and quota of major species are either reduced or banned. This brings additional difficulties to the polish fishermen.
- Should it be possible to use the remaining budget from the EMFF to take immediate steps to launch the crises mechanism, request from the industry and the administration?
- Sharing the border in UKR puts PL in a specific situation for pelagic species. Already COVID has proven that they are strategic resources to produce the can food, which is strategic reserve; Humanitarian organisations are calling PL to provide to UKR the canned fish for the soldiers; this proves also that the pelagic fish is strategic food especially in the war. Therefore it should be taken special care and special support to the pelagic sector in the Baltic Sea to continue to provide this food to the sector.
- There are concerns about postponing the ICES advice on quotas for 2023. What are the step to take the decision and the next steps in particular with regard to the pelagic species.

██████████

- Shares the voice of ██████████ and Europeche
- No other sector is more interested in green transition and green fuels than the fisheries sector, the technology to get there is not available yet.
- In our proposal we mentioned the increase on banking from 10% to 25%. It would help the fisherman and stabilises the market. We encourage COM to request from ISEC advice on the opportunities on relevant stocks.
- For certain stocks, the quotas expire end of June, for others in October. We should see about the possibility to extend the quota year for these certain stocks allowing fishermen to use the fishing opportunities.

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- There are lots of discussions with the MS on the support under Art 26 EMFAF Regulation. In our opinion and in order to avoid any misunderstanding, it would be important to get some guidance from DG MARE regarding the financial mechanism under Art 26. Will there be any guidance that DG MARE will provide as soon as possible to the MS?

Feedback Cmrs:

- There are lots of technical questions.
- Possible shortage of supply – no answer at the moment, this may require horizontal solutions
- EMFAF support can be used on top of the state aid, the combination of measures provides important support
- EMFAF measures – we do at COM level all to support the MS to adopt their programmes as quickly as possible.
- Need to increase banking to 25% - it is still early to assess if it is possible to carry over unused quotes from the current year to the next year. Risk that a bigger increase of the percentage would undermine our objective and the objectives under CFP. We will be analysing the situation very carefully and will take decision from there.
- Implementation of EMFAF measures – technical meeting with MS on Wednesday provided technical details for MS to start implementing; we are doing all at COM level to support MS to speed up the implementation of the crises measures.
- EMFF – we are preparing the EMFF amendment to include crises measures, we hope to implement the process smoothly and have the measures adopted soon and to unlock those unused funds. It could unlock around 1bn in total.
- Additional funding – there is at the moment no additional funding foreseen; there is no possibility; we have to use what we have effectively; we will be working with MS closely in this regards
- Accumulation of EMFAF support and state aid - the COM receives many similar questions on this topic; DG COMP is planning to publish a Q&A on the temporary framework and would help you to get the required answers and would foster the dialogue with MS
- EMFAF guidance – As said, MARE is already providing such guidance to MS and this is a priority for MARE at the moment.

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Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 12:29 PM

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Subject: RE: Meeting with commissioner

Dear [REDACTED]

It went very well. Is the first time the sector experience such a quick reaction from the Commission. Main requests: accumulation of TF and de minimis per undertaking, increase of banking percentage, to provide guidance to MS for the EMFAF crisis tool, EMFF modification.

[REDACTED] will prepare a more detailed flash. Many thanks [REDACTED]

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Subject: Meeting with commissioner

Dear colleagues,

Could you share your notes from the meeting just now? I could not take any as traveling on train (and bad connection) but would be good to have the discussion on record for follow up purposes.

Many thanks in advance,
[REDACTED]