



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE/C2/NG/Ares (2021)

Mr. David Pavon  
President of the Executive Committee of  
CC RUP  
Rua de São Paulo, 3  
9760-540 Praia da Vitória  
Açores  
Portugal

**Subject: Recommendation on Aquaculture sector in the Outermost Regions**

*Your ref.: CC RUP - 07/2020 - EC*

Dear Mr Pavon,

Thank you for your letter of 26 November 2020 including the five recommendations of CC RUP on aquaculture in the Outermost Regions.

Concerning the **first recommendation** on the need to maintain the compensation plans, I would like to inform you that, as agreed by co-legislators, the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) will support the compensation of additional costs incurred by operators in the fishing, farming, processing and marketing of certain fishery and aquaculture products from the Union's Outermost Regions. One of the main novelties is that for each Outermost Region, the Member State should describe the methodology for the calculation of the compensation for additional costs in the action plan. The delegated act for the compensation of additional costs will be ready after the formal adoption of the new EMFAF, and will include all the provisions in this matter.

As regards the **second and third recommendations** on the issue of support to aquaculture in the EMFAF, please let me reassure you that:

- promoting a sustainable aquaculture remains a key objective of the CFP and of the new fund, the EMFAF. The Commission has been working on the review of the Strategic Guidelines for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture. The adoption of the corresponding Commission Communication is expected during the first quarter of 2021. The main objective of these Guidelines is to set a vision for the growth of EU aquaculture as a sector that is competitive, resilient and a reference in terms of sustainability, in line with the European Green Deal agenda.

- the Commission has also invited EU Member States to review their Multiannual National Strategic Plans for Aquaculture (MNAPs) in light of the consultations on the future Strategic Guidelines, in order to ensure that they are up to date in view of the next programming period for EU funds (2021-2027), notably the EMFAF.
- the support to aquaculture activities will continue, in the new EMFAF Priority 2, together with support to the processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products. There will be elements of continuity in the support between the current European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and EMFAF. The co-legislators have also agreed on the specificities for Outermost Regions, including a higher aid intensity (85% as a general rule, increased to 100% on compensations of costs, Small-Scale fleet (including control and enforcement), collection of scientific data; protection of biodiversity and ecosystems, as provided for in the provisional political agreement of 4/12/2020 on the future EMFAF regulation). Support to aquaculture under the future EMFAF has to be consistent with the MNAPs and therefore the EU Member States need to ensure coherence between their future operational programmes and their respective MNAPs.

In response to your **fourth and fifth recommendation**, I would like to refer to the Staff Working Document issued by the Commission to support EU Member States in the preparation of their EMFAF Operational Programmes and containing Sea Basin Analyses of the challenges in achieving the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy<sup>1</sup>. This document contains a section dedicated to Outermost Regions, including the promotion of a profitable and sustainable aquaculture in these regions. This document also identifies the challenges referred to in your letter, namely the need to develop the local production of juveniles or the limited access to regional coordination and knowledge sharing platforms.

The future EMFAF will allow EU Member States to support any actions to address such challenges, as long as they are in line with the objective of promoting sustainable EU aquaculture and the MNAPs.

I trust that this reply will provide you with sufficient elements for consideration and I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. I invite you to contact Ms Pascale Colson ([Pascale.Colson@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Pascale.Colson@ec.europa.eu); + 32 2 29 56273) should you have any further questions on CC RUP related issues.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/swd-2020-206-a-sea-basin-perspective-to-guide-emff-programming\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/swd-2020-206-a-sea-basin-perspective-to-guide-emff-programming_en.pdf)