



copa*cogeca
european farmers european agri-cooperatives



United call for a reinforced specific fund for fisheries and aquaculture in the next Multiannual Financial Framework

- Press Release -

Brussels, 20 March 2025

As the European Council and the Parliament prepare to discuss the future Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), leading EU associations urge EU policymakers to maintain and strengthen the current fund for fisheries and aquaculture, emphasizing its critical role in food security, economic stability and environmental sustainability.

Fisheries and aquaculture cannot be measured only in economic terms. The fleet, aquaculture producers, processors and traders supply one of the healthiest animal foods with the lowest carbon footprint. This makes aquatic foods an optimal choice for balanced diets while delivering on food security and climate protection. However, they face unique challenges that cannot be addressed through a broad, single fund covering multiple industries.

In a letter addressed to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, European Council President António Costa, and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, industry leaders expressed concerns about proposals to integrate the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) into a single, overarching funding structure. They argue that such an approach would undermine the sector's ability to address its specific challenges. The industry representatives highlight the European Commission's own findings that fishers, aquaculture producers and processors face rising costs, global competition, and difficulties in attracting younger generations. Small-scale coastal fisheries, in particular, struggle with wages significantly lower than other sectors. Furthermore, they face increasing environmental regulations and competition for maritime space.

"Fisheries and aquaculture and the processing thereof, are not just economic activities; they are deeply connected to Europe's coastal and rural communities. The structural and natural differences across regions demand a targeted financial approach," the letter states. "A single fund risks limiting flexibility and failing to recognize the sector's specific needs."

The fisheries and aquaculture organizations call for:

- **A reinforced and independent fund** for fisheries and aquaculture with increased budgetary allocations.
- **Stronger financial support** to ensure sustainability, economic resilience and continue improving work and living conditions.
- **Targeted investments** to help the sector meet environmental and climate objectives, including decarbonisation goals.
- **A commitment to food security and supply chain resilience**, ensuring that EU fisheries and aquaculture remain a priority in the next MFF.

"The EU must recognize the unique conditions of our industry and maintain a dedicated fund to ensure its sustainable future," the letter concludes. "A well-funded, independent fisheries and aquaculture policy is essential for Europe's economy, environment, and food security."

The signatories include representatives from **AIPCE-CEP, Copa-Cogeca, EAPO, Europêche, ETF and FEAP**, urging EU leaders to act decisively in support of the sector.

Information not for publication

For media inquiries and further information, please contact:

Contact AIPCE CEP:

Katarina Sipic (Secretary General) – Email: ksipic@aipce-cep.eu
Mobile: +32 470 86 55 43

Contact Copa-Cogeca

Riccardo Pelani (Policy Advisor) – Email: Riccardo.Pelani@copa-cogeca.eu
Mobile: +32 478 18 99 15

Contact EAPO:

Jules Danto (EAPO Policy Officer) – Email: jules.danto@eapo.com
Mobile: +32 470 41 78 38

Contact Europêche:

Daniel Voces (Managing Director of Europêche) – Email: daniel.voces@europeche.org
Mobile: +32 489 26 81 07

Contact ETF:

Andrea Albertazzi (Fisheries Policy Officer) – Email: a.albertazzi@etf-europe.org
Mobile: +32 470 93 05 89

Contact FEAP:

Javier Ojeda (General Secretary) – Email: javier@feap.info
Mobile: +34 659 09 48 94