



Council of the
European Union

**Brussels, 7 December 2023
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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and Support –
Compensation in Case of Exceptional Events
*- Information from the Portuguese delegation, on behalf of the Bulgarian,
Czech, Cyprus, French, Greek, Italian, Hungarian, Maltese and Portuguese
delegations*

Delegations will find attached an information note by the Bulgarian, Czech, Cyprus, French, Greek, Italian, Hungarian, Maltese and Portuguese delegations on the above-mentioned subject in view of the meeting of the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 10-11 December 2023, where it will be presented under "Any Other Business"

**AOB by Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Hungary,
Malta and Portugal**

**EUROPEAN MARITIME, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE FUND AND
SUPPORT – COMPENSATION IN CASE OF EXCEPTIONAL EVENTS**

The Russian aggression against Ukraine has had a deep impact on our lives across almost all sectors. Fisheries is not an exception as the European fleets have had to deal with unexpected increases in production costs since February 2022.

To mitigate the impact on the profitability of the sector, measures were taken in March 2022 under Article 26(2) of the European Maritime, Aquaculture and Fisheries Fund 2021-2027.

Through Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/500 of 25 March 2022, Russia's military aggression against Ukraine was considered to be an exceptional event causing a significant disruption of markets and support compensation for certain costs was granted for situations which would otherwise not be eligible for such compensation.

The decision, however, was limited to expenditure that was incurred until 31 December 2022, presumably in the expectation that the conflict might have been resolved by then.

Unfortunately, that is not the case and the conflict is still ongoing, as are its consequences.

Despite all efforts, the Union's fishing fleet remains significantly impacted, facing reduced profitability and inability to offset the increased production costs.

This problem has been further exacerbated by the recent situation in Israel and in the region, which is resulting in a further rise in energy prices and shortage of essential raw materials, having, therefore, a particular effect on the fishing fleet.

In light of the above, it is our conviction that the eligibility period of expenditure for the financial compensation to ship-owners provided in the Commission Implementing Decision 2022/500 should be extended, as the exceptional circumstances that lead to its approval are still ongoing.

In this regard, we invite Commission to extend the eligibility period until 31 December 2024 allowing support to be provided for the period 2023-2024.
