



Reaction to the European Commission's proposals regarding the EMFF post-2020

This Paper is based on the CPMR Policy Position adopted in March 2018 by the CPMR Political Bureau and an exchange of views within the CPMR Political Bureau and more broadly between CPMR Member Regions following the proposals made by the European Commission.

In the light of feedback received from the Regions, the European Commission's proposals contain positive elements, but need to be improved to strengthen the partnership with the Regions. In addition, the proposed reduction of 13% of the EMFF budget raises deep concerns.

1. Positive points

- **Maintenance of a specific fund to finance fisheries and aquaculture first and foremost.** The added value and legitimacy of the EMFF mainly lie in the financing of the Common Fisheries Policy.
- **Simplification of the EMFF,** by entrusting the definition of measures that are eligible for funding and eligibility rules to the managing authorities, excluding a list of ineligible measures.
- **Strengthening of measures for the Outermost Regions,** particularly through the definition of minimum allocation, the obligation for managing authorities to define specific action plans, and the maintenance of differentiated aid intensity rates.
- **Maintenance of Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)**
- **Support for sustainable blue growth,** through the continuation of measures falling under Integrated Maritime Policy in the framework of the current programming period.

2. Points to improve

The changes proposed below would help strengthen the partnership with the managing authorities and the regions. This is essential for the effectiveness of the fund and its synergies with other European funds, including the ERDF.

- **Increase the share of shared management.** The draft regulation provides for a 16% decrease in the EMFF budget under shared management, and an 11% increase in direct management, which distances the management of the fund from the reality of the territories.
- **Strengthen the role of the Regions in Operational Programmes,** through the introduction of the opportunity, for Member States that so wish, to create regional Operational Programmes. The efficiency of the contribution of the EMFF to its own objectives requires to implement it in close coordination with regional strategies.
- **Waive the obligation to use financial instruments to support aquaculture and product processing.** The managing authorities must be able to determine the appropriate forms of support with socio-economic actors.
- **Reduce the list of ineligible measures.** It is particularly necessary to introduce the possibility to fund:
 - ➔ The acquisition of vessels;
 - ➔ The modernisation and replacement of engines;
 - ➔ New infrastructures, such as new auction halls, in order to improve both the valorisation and quality of products, without increasing capacities in terms of infrastructures.

The draft regulation does not provide for these opportunities for small-scale fisheries. They must be extended to support the sustainability of all fleets. This would not increase fishing capacity, in agreement with the objectives of the CFP, but is essential to support the installation of young fishers, to strengthen efforts to tackle climate change, to improve safety on board, and to face needs in terms of fleet renewal.

3. EMFF Budget: an alarming proposal for a 13% reduction

For the reasons explained below, the European Commission's proposed budget for the EMFF post-2020 represents a decrease of 13% compared to the current EMFF budget. This reduction hinders the EMFF's ability to adequately support the fisheries sector.

Elements of analysis of the proposed budget for the EMFF post-2020

The European Commission has published its budget proposals for European funds for the 2021-2027 period, including the EMFF, in "2018" prices, as well as in "current" prices:

- The 2018 prices, also known as constant prices, correspond to the budget of European Funds in a given year, in this case 2018;
- Current prices correspond to the budget of European Funds plus estimated inflation for the coming years. To estimate the budget of European Funds for the 2014-2021 period in current prices, the Commission adds inflation estimated at 2% per year.

For the EMFF, the European Commission has proposed a budget of 5.4 billion Euros in 2018 prices and 6.1 billion in current prices.

Comparing the budgets of the programming periods 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 in current prices is biased as these budgets include inflation-related variations.

The ideal situation would be to be able to compare the budgets of two programming periods in 2018 prices.

In this context, the CPMR has made an estimate of the EMFF budget for the 2014-2020 period in 2018 prices, applying a 2% deflator and excluding the UK portion of this budget to take into account the impact of Brexit.

The results of these estimates are as follows:

EMFF				
MFF 2014-2020 (CPMR calculation)		Amount differences	MFF 2021- 2027	
MFF 2014-2020	2018 prices excluding UK		2018 prices	Share of total MFF
EMFF	6 282	- 13%	5 448	0,5%
Of which				
Shared management	5 621	- 16%	4 712	0,4 %
Direct management	660	+ 11%	735	0,06%



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The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) brings together some 160 Regions from 25 States from the European Union and beyond.

Representing about 200 million people, the CPMR campaigns in favour of a more balanced development of the European territory.

It operates both as a think tank and as a lobby group for Regions. It focuses mainly on social, economic and territorial cohesion, maritime policies and accessibility.

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