

SUGGESTIONS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE EMFF DRAFT REGULATION

Article 9

Current wording

 In accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No [Regulation laying down Common Provisions], each Member State shall prepare a single programme to implement the priorities referred to in Article 4.

Amendment

 In accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No [Regulation laying down Common Provisions], each Member State shall prepare a single national programme or regional operational programmes to implement the priorities referred to in Article 4.

Justification

Article 16 of the draft Regulation on Common Provisions states that "...shall prepare programmes to implement the Funds for the period from 1January 2021 to 31 December 2027".

It is useful to include via the EMFF Regulation the possibility, in those Member States that wish so and without making this an obligation for all regions, that these programmes could be regional.

The possibility to establish regional operational programmes can be an asset to strengthen the synergies between the EMFF and other European funds such as the ERDF, and with regional economic strategies which play an important role in the support for the blue economy.

Article 9

Current wording

Member States concerned shall prepare as part of their programme an action plan for each of their outermost regions referred to in Article 6(2), which shall set out:

(a) a strategy for the sustainable exploitation of fisheries and the development of sustainable blue economy sectors;

Amendment

Member States concerned shall prepare as part of their programme, jointly with relevant authorities and stakeholders of their territories, an action plan for each of their regions, including outermost regions referred to in Article 6(2), which shall set out:

(a) a strategy for the sustainable exploitation of fisheries and the development of sustainable blue economy sectors;

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(b) a description of the main actions envisaged and the corresponding financial means, including:

i the structural support to the fishery and aquaculture sector under Title II;

ii the compensation for additional costs referred to in Article 21;

iii any other investment in the sustainable blue economy necessary to achieve a sustainable coastal development. (b) a description of the main actions envisaged and the corresponding financial means, including:

i the structural support to the fishery and aquaculture sector under Title II;

ii For outermost regions, the compensation for additional costs referred to in Article 21;

iii any other investment in the sustainable blue economy necessary to achieve a sustainable coastal development.

Justification

The European Commission has proposed for Member States to prepare as part of their programme an action plan for Outermost regions. This is useful to ensure that specific regional needs are taken into account in the programming of the EMFF.

This measure should be extended to all regions and could be an alternative to the establishment of regional operational programmes in some regions.

Article 23

Current wording

3. Productive aquaculture investments under this Article may only be supported through the financial instruments provided for in Article 52 of Regulation (EU) No [Regulation laying down Common Provisions] and through InvestEU, in accordance Article 10 of that Regulation.

Amendment

3. Productive aquaculture investments under this Article may only be supported through the financial instruments provided for in Article 52 of Regulation (EU) No [Regulation laying down Common Provisions] and through InvestEU, in accordance Article 10 of that Regulation.

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Justification

The managing authorities of the EMFF must be able to determine the appropriate forms of support with socio-economic actors. Strong investments are needed to support European aquaculture, which is confronted with fierce international competition. The majority of companies of the aquaculture sector are SMEs which have a low negotiating capacity with the financial sector. Some investments in support of these companies need to be supported via grants.