



WORKING GROUP 1 – EU PRODUCTION

Julien Lamothe

Chair

Copa Cogeca (Meeting Room B), Rue de Trèves 61, 1040 Brussels

Thursday, 11 June 2026

AGENDA (CET TIME ZONE)

- 14:00 Welcome from the Chair, Julien Lamothe
 - 14:05 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (23.03.26)
 - 14:10 Action points of the last meeting
 - 14:15 Common Fisheries Policy
 - 14:30 Common Market Organisation
 - 15:30 Simplification and Reduction of Administrative Burden regarding the Common Market Organisation
 - 16:00 **Break**
 - 16:15 Multiannual Financial Framework
 - 16:45 Conflict in the Middle East
 - 17:20 AOB
 - 17:25 Summary of actions points
- 17:30 End of the meeting*

ACTION POINTS (23 MARCH 2026)

EU Strategies for Islands and Coastal Communities:

- Secretariat to circulate a questionnaire to the members to collect inputs, which will serve as basis for the development, via an urgent written procedure, of draft advice, to be finalised during the month of April 2026.
- Advice adopted on 24 April 2026

Multiannual Financial Framework:

- Secretariat to request, via email message, in advance of the June 2026 meeting, further information from DG MARE on the proposed budget expenditure tracking and performance framework.
- Agenda point scheduled (15:30 CET)

EU Aquaculture Campaign:

- Agenda point on the development of the 2027 campaign for aquatic foods to be scheduled under the draft agenda of the September 2026 meeting.
- Pending

COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

➤ Exchange of views on the evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation

▪ MAC Advice on “Evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy (2014-2024)”: 8 July 2025

- Economic sustainability of the fisheries & aquaculture value chain is at risk
- Uncertainty, rising costs, labour shortages, and weak generational renewal
- Reduction in availability of local fishery supplies, limited development of aquaculture, steep cost increases (due to crises), limited improvement to market self-sufficiency rate
- EU is a leader on consumer transparency & labelling (different views among membership on way forward for prepared and preserved products)
- Importance of Producer Organisations & of Advisory Councils
- Strong sustainability and governance framework (control & monitoring, fight against IUU, data collection)
- Challenging complexity for implementation by operators (reporting, traceability, control, links to other legislation)
- Challenges: Brexit, unstable geopolitical context, international competition, inflation & rising operational costs, unstable markets and price volatility, behavioural changes & shifts in consumption patterns, labour shortages, prevention of food loss & food waste, animal welfare
- Objectives are relevant, but implementation can be insufficient or uneven

COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

- **Exchange of views on the evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation**
 - **Commission's evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation: 30 April 2026**
 - Strengthened the scientific basis & governance framework of fisheries management, through improved data collection and scientific advice
 - Economic performance has not been as expected (insufficient rationalisation of capacity, reduced landings, stagnation of aquaculture production, resilience of the processing sector)
 - Mixed results for coastal communities
 - Catch sector – Job security and wages undermined by weak economic model, ageing vessels, low attractiveness for new generations due to work conditions
 - Aquaculture sector – Issues of generational renewal due to administrative burden & efficiency issues
 - Processing sector – Relatively more resilient, better economic performance
 - Moderate contribution to food security (static or declining fisheries and aquaculture production)
 - Internationally – Active building of partnerships (bilateral agreements, RFMOs, SFPAS), access to non-EU waters, improved level playing field, fighting against IUU + increased dependence on imports
 - Shortcomings in control, enforcement, and compliance
 - Conclusion: “CFP Regulation remains very important and relevant tool to manage a common natural resource and related economic activity in a changing world” + “Inefficiencies and gaps identified in the evaluation and by stakeholders are often dependent on the full implementation of its provisions or provisions of secondary legislation”.

Topic	What has worked as expected	What has not worked as expected
Fishing pressure and stock biomass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction towards maximum sustainable yield rate (F_{MSY}) Significant improvements in RFMOs through precautionary objectives and MSE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not achieved for all stocks within the initial timeframe Inconsistent rebuilding above target biomass levels (B_{MSY})
Ecosystem-based approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress in ecosystem-based approaches through protection of marine space, technical measures and international cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress is slow and joint recommendations require compromises Challenges in landing obligation implementation
Economic Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU aquaculture profitable Improve economic performance of EU processing industry Sector structuring through professional organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced landings affect incomes and profitability Insufficient progress towards capacity balance undermines profitability and incomes Poor profitability hampers fleet renewal High operational costs and sensitivity to energy costs hamper profitability
Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience in processing sector Diversification of sources, including imports Access to non-EU waters maintained through RFMOs, SFPAs, bilateral and multilateral agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of growth of aquaculture production Declining fisheries landings Increased reliance on imports Competitive vulnerabilities
Consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability and diversity of products remain high 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand is weakening Incomplete consumer information, in particular as regards processed FAPs
Social sustainability i.e. living standards of coastal communities linked to fishing and aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience in processing sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak economic performance affecting job security and wages, along with safety risks, result in an unattractive catch sector (low generational renewal) Administrative burden affecting capacity to enter the aquaculture sector
Scientific base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened and expanded data collection and data harmonisation at regional level “Science of MSY” (via quantitative assessments) is central to management of fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uneven data coverage in a context of ever-increasing scientific needs and new sources of uncertainties (e.g. climate change) F_{MSY} approach challenging in multispecies interactions and mixed fisheries
Regionalisation and stakeholder consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regionalisation and ACs bring stakeholders and authorities together to work on solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lengthy processes Dependence on national political impetus Structural imbalance in membership of ACs
Control and Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernisation of Control Regulation to address caveats Strengthened strategic partnerships, including to fight IUU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level playing field and full compliance across Member States not yet achieved

Table 7 - Summary of conclusions

COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

➤ Way forward

- Under Work Programme of Year 10 (2025-2026), commitment to produce advice on “Commission’s report on the evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation, including the Common Market Organisation Regulation”
 - Proceed with advice? Wait for clarity on a potential legislative proposal for a revision?

COMMON MARKET ORGANISATION

➤ Presentation on the evaluation of the Common Market Organisation Regulation

▪ Sven Langedijk (MARE A4)

- Professional Organisations: Total number of POs has remained stable. More Member States now have POs. Most fishery POs have small-scale fishers as members. Membership of SSCF & aquaculture producers remains relatively low in most countries.
- Evolution of accessibility, availability, affordability for EU consumers: Retail prices have risen steadily. Below the overall increase in food prices. Decrease in apparent consumption. Concentration in the top species. Increased popularity of preserved/process products.
- Evolution of consumer awareness, understanding, confidence and ability to make informed choices: Price increasingly important in purchasing decisions. Existing mandatory information is valued. Growing demand for additional details (catch/harvest date, environmental information, vessel flag). 73% of at-home FAP consumption falls under CMO mandatory information requirements. About 50% of the overall FAP consumption is covered by CMO mandatory information requirements.
- Level playing field on EU market: CMO has key added value (market functioning, transparency, stability) + level playing field via common rules. Added-value of EU rules on consumer information is limited by their scope (not covering preserved products).

COMMON MARKET ORGANISATION

➤ Exchange of views

➤ Way forward

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SIMPLIFICATION AND REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN REGARDING THE COMMON MARKET ORGANISATION

➤ Exchange of views on the initial simplification assessment of DG MARE

- **Sven Langedijk & Marta Janakakis (MARE A4)**
- Competitiveness Compass for the EU: Reduction of administrative burden by 25% for firms and, at least, 35% for SMEs
- DG MARE: Stress testing of EU acquis, two studies on the Fisheries Control Regulation, Implementation Dialogues of Commissioner Kadis, reality checks (workshops)
- MAC Advice on “Competitiveness of the EU Market of Fishery and Aquaculture Products – Simplification and reduction of administrative burden” (26 March 2026)
- MAC Advice on “Competitiveness of the EU Market of Fishery and Aquaculture Products – Upcoming studies on the Fisheries Control Regulation (26 May 2026)

➤ Way forward

BREAK

➤ **BACK AT 16:15**

MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

- Presentation on the proposed budget expenditure tracking and performance framework
 - Eoin Mac Aoidh (MARE D3)
- Exchange of views
- Way forward



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 16.7.2025
COM(2025) 545 final
2025/0545(COD)

Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

establishing a budget expenditure tracking and performance framework and other horizontal rules for the Union programmes and activities

CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Presentation on the emergency measures, including EMFAF crisis mechanism and Temporary State Aid Framework, to address increase in costs**
 - **Eoin Mac Aoidh (MARE D3)**
 - AAC-MEDAC-NSAC-NWWAC-MAC-SWWAC Advice on “Ceiling for de minimis State Aid and Crises Mechanisms for Fisheries and Aquaculture” (24 April 2026)
 - Swifter activation of the crisis mechanism available under the EMFAF Regulation
 - Monitor, via EUMOFA, impact on prices of fishery & aquaculture products
 - If appropriate, activate emergency support mechanisms, such as a temporary crisis framework
 - In the monitoring and implementation, including at the Member States’ level, of crisis measures, duly take into account the entirety of the fisheries and aquaculture supply chain
 - Welcoming of recent activation of the crisis mechanisms of EMFAF Regulation
- **Exchange of views**
 - Satisfaction with the crisis measures? Level of funding? Coverage of the different parts of the fisheries and aquaculture value chain?
 - Implementation by Member States?

AOB, ACTION POINTS, END OF MEETING

- **AOB**
- **Summary of action points**
- **End of meeting**