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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (EMFF) -Irish comments

Delegations will find attached written comments by the Irish delegation on the above-mentioned document.

Comments from Ireland on EMFF 2021-2027 Draft Revised Mandate (11416/20)

Article 6 – Row 109

We would like a derogation to be introduced stating clearly that, in the event that fishing opportunities are reduced for EU vessels because of the UK's departure, the limit set would increase by a substantial amount.

Article 16(1) /Article 16(1)(aa) - Rows 202 / 203a

Disagree with proposed Pres mandate. We support eligibility of acquisition of partial vessel ownership. The PGA specifically included a new provision allowing aid for acquisition of a share or partial ownership of a vessel. This has fallen out of the Commission's alternative drafting. We would prefer to see this reintroduced. We are supportive of tightening up the provision e.g. 'majority ownership'.

Article 16b (1), point b – Row 210L

We do not support the proposed flexibility in relation to >24m vessels.

Article 16b (1), point c – Row 210m

We do not support the suggested flexibility to compromise on the age of the vessel in exchange for vessels longer than 24m receiving support. See note above re >24m vessels. Regarding age of vessels, Ireland previously suggested in written comments that 10 years would be a reasonable compromise.

Article 16b (3) – Row 210p

Agree with Pres mandate. COM's alternative drafting only allows aid through financial instruments with no possibility of grant aid. We see no logic to limiting aid to financial instruments only in this regard and request that grant aid be facilitated.

Article 17 - Row 220

The PGA had deleted the original Commission proposal that permanent cessation would be funded through Financing Not Linked to Costs. The Commission's alternative drafting proposes to reinstate this provision. Under that mechanism, Member States would not be reimbursed by the Commission for permanent cessation of fishing activities on the basis of real costs incurred, but on the basis of the fulfilment of conditions and of the achievement of results. For this purpose, the Commission would establish in a delegated act such conditions which would relate to the achievement of the conservation objectives of the CFP. This recoupment model would present unknown financial risk to Member States for no obvious benefit. Consequently, we prefer the deletion of this provision as per the PGA.