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**NOTE**

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| From:    | General Secretariat of the Council                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| To:      | Delegations                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Subject: | AOB for the meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 17 November 2025<br>The need to ensure adequate support for the aquaculture sector<br>- Information from Slovakia, on behalf of Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Slovakia |

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**The need to ensure adequate support for the aquaculture sector**

***Information from the Czech, Croatian, Hungarian and Slovak delegations***

In its proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028-2034, the European Commission proposes to finance the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), including aquaculture, through the National and regional partnership plans (NRPP). **However, the specific amount allocated to the CFP is not legally defined, and neither clear conditions for supporting the aquaculture sector, including the processing of fishery and aquaculture products.**

The announced amount of EUR 2 billion, which, in addition to the CFP, is intended to support the European Ocean Pact, the Union's maritime policy and aquaculture policy, is **two-thirds lower than in the previous programming period**. This drastic budget cut has consequently led to a reduction of almost **63% in the national envelopes for individual Member States and at the same time also leads to a reduction in the allocation of technical assistance for administrative capacity and management. From the perspective of Member States, such a reduction in financial resources is devastating.**

Moreover, **the proposed minimum ringfenced amount does not allow for the implementation of interventions that are proposed as conditional** (in particular, measures to support fisheries control and data collection) and **does not cover the necessary investments such as productive investments, the processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products.**

According to the Commission, other sources can also be used from the non-ringfenced amount allocated to the NRPPs as *a top -up* to the ringfenced amount. In practice, however, this means **competing for funds with policies and sectors that are many times more prioritized at national level.** This approach introduces a significant degree of uncertainty as to whether sufficient resources will be allocated to aquaculture, thereby undermining the achievement of the desired objectives.

The draft Regulation establishing the NRP Fund for the years 2028-2034, as well as the sectoral proposal for a Regulation on fisheries and aquaculture **are not sufficiently clear, both in terms of eligibility conditions and in terms of financing the aquaculture sector and the processing industry.** This fact significantly complicates the work of our national authorities in the process of programming and planning future support for the sector. It is not entirely clear from the draft regulation for the NRP that it includes the necessary activities related to freshwater aquaculture (particularly: Investments in aquaculture, Investments in the processing of aquaculture and fishery products, Promotional campaigns and Innovations).

It is worth recalling that aquaculture contributes to EU food security and also provides environmental benefits, for example in water management, landscape protection and biodiversity. It is a sector with diverse production methods, requiring significant investment and innovative technologies.

It is therefore in our best interest to continue to adequately support the aquaculture sector to ensure its competitiveness, resilience and sustainability.

**Based on the above, we consider it necessary to:**

- **Proactively seek financing not only from the ring-fenced CFP allocation but also from the non-ring-fenced NRPP envelope to ensure adequate funding.**
- **Set clear conditions for supporting the aquaculture sector and the processing of fishery and aquaculture products.**
- **Ensure consistency of legislative proposals relating to the NRPP and future CFP support.**