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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
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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) N° 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (EMFF)

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

Malta Written Comments on 5380/1/20 REV 1**Row 128b**

Malta has evaluated the Presidency's suggested approach for Row 128b of the four-column document (5350/1/20 REV 1) in detail and took note of comments presented by the Presidency, Commission and other delegations during the Working Party on External and Internal Fisheries Policy.

Malta believes that maximum flexibility should be ensured when dealing with small-scale coastal fisheries and the inclusion of actions relating to such fisheries within the Operational Programme under the new EMFAF Regulation. Whilst Malta is not against actions for small-scale coastal fisheries in the operational programme, Malta requires **maximum flexibility** when it comes to deciding what types of actions will be included or not.

Therefore, Malta is proposing the below text for Row 128b, as means to ensure maximum flexibility:

*[3a. While carrying out the analysis of the situation in terms of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats referred to in paragraph 3(a), Member States shall take into account the specific needs of small-scale coastal fishing, as set out in Annex V of Regulation (EU) No [Regulation laying down Common Provisions]. For the specific objectives that contribute to the development of profitable and sustainable small-scale coastal fishing, **Member States shall may describe the types of actions considered for this purpose**, as set out in Article 17(3)(d)(i) and Annex V of Regulation (EU) No [Regulation laying down Common Provisions].]*

Malta truly understands the Presidency's position to find a middle-ground with the European Parliament, and would like to thanks the Presidency for its work during these negotiations.