



Costas Kadis
Commissioner for Fisheries and Ocean
European Commission
200, rue de la Loi
BE – 1049 Brussels

Brussels, 14 November 2025

Subject: Socio-Economic support under the Fishing Opportunities Regulation

Dear Commissioner Kadis,

Following up on your request of 5 November, made during the plenary meeting of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for Fisheries, we wish to submit a short note regarding the need to accompany the technical compensation measures provided for in Article 8 of the “Fishing Opportunities” Regulation with additional socio-economic measures.

Recalling that the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union pledges to ensuring a fair standard of living for fishers, we believe that the definition of fishing opportunities should not be reduced to a simple mathematical formula. The holistic approach — also shared by the European Commission — requires the involvement not only of biologists and technical experts, but also full consideration of the social, economic and territorial impacts of the decisions taken. Fishing opportunities have a profound effect not only on the activity of fishers, but also on the entire value chain and on the life of European coastal communities.

For these reasons, the Committee proposes the introduction in the Regulation of **a new Article 8a**, providing for socio-economic accompanying measures to the decisions on fishing opportunities.

This would represent an important paradigm shift, allowing for the recognition and concrete support of the efforts made by fishing companies and fishers — particularly in the Western Mediterranean — to adapt to an increasingly complex regulatory framework, while continuing to ensure employment, safety and sustainability in the fishing communities.

These measures, to be implemented in parallel with technical ones, should be designed in a flexible and inclusive way, placing people at the centre. A number of measures can be envisaged but, by way of example, they could include:

- Compensation percentages for enterprises that periodically organise training activities - beyond the obligations arising from the applicable legislation - for their crews (for example, three days per quarter) on navigation safety, onboard safety, fishery biology (to improve understanding of management rules and awareness of their necessity), compliance awareness, or language courses, which are particularly useful to improve communication among seafarers from different backgrounds;
- Compensation percentages for vessel owners and fishers paid on the catch who make onboard investments aimed at improving, beyond the obligations arising from the applicable legislation:
 - Working conditions;
 - Living conditions and fishers' wellbeing;
 - Crew safety.

The application of these compensation measures should therefore make it possible, in the same way as technical measures, to **allocate additional quota or fishing days** to vessels that decide to implement them.

Such an approach, based on an integrated vision of sustainability, would strengthen the resilience of the fisheries sector, supporting the ecological transition without sacrificing the social and economic dimensions that form its vital foundation and give a strong signal to the fishing communities and companies who want to offer better jobs and working conditions in the sector.

Trusting in your attention and sensitivity to these matters, we remain at your disposal for any technical discussion and to contribute to defining the practical modalities for implementing this proposal.

With our kindest regards,

Cor Blonk



Chair EU Social Dialogue Committee
for Sea Fisheries

Juan Manuel Trujillo Castillo



Chair ETF Fisheries Section