



# DG MARE current policy developments

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MT EMFAF MC meeting  
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# Context

- **COM proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034**
- **Ongoing evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy**
- **A number of ongoing MARE studies**
- **A number of ongoing policy initiatives**

# Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)

- **Commission proposal for 2028-2034 MFF adopted** on 16 July.
- **A fundamental redesign** of the EU budget for a more **integrated, flexible and impactful** approach.
- Recognises the **vital role of fishery and aquaculture** producers in Europe's **coastal communities** and economies.
- Supports key EU priorities, including the **CFP, the European Ocean Pact, maritime and aquaculture policy.**

# A faster, simpler and more impactful system

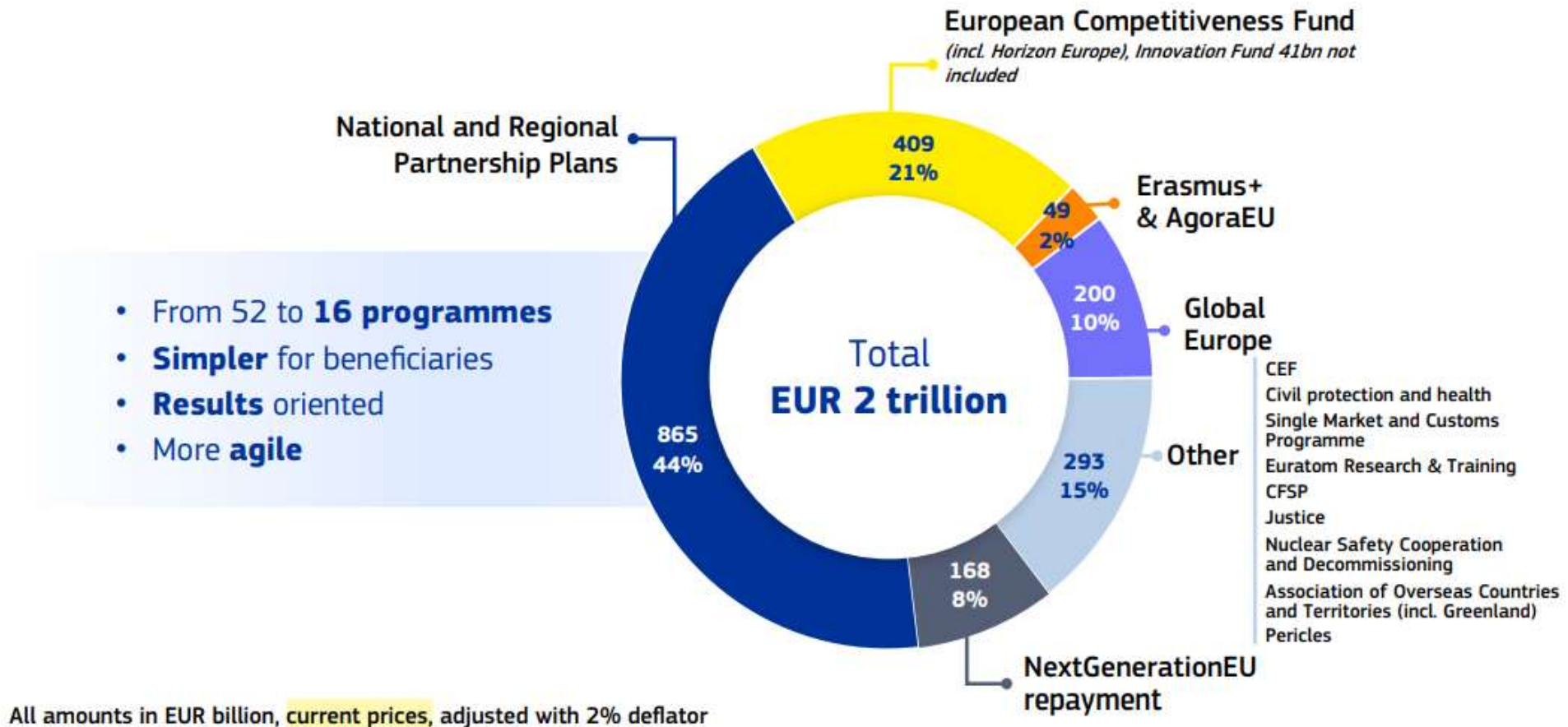
Ensuring better coherence between EU priorities and national and regional actions	Achieving simplification and better value for money	Addressing emerging policy priorities without putting at risk the fulfilment of long-term objectives	Fostering ownership at all levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Stronger synergies</b> between policies</li><li>➤ <b>A more integrated programming process</b>, allowing a more differentiated and qualitative approach to deliver on EU priorities, <b>tailored</b> to each Member State's national and regional challenges</li><li>➤ <b>Investments + reforms</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>A single rulebook + a large eligibility scope and toolbox</b> (e.g. guarantees)</li><li>➤ <b>Payments based on achievement of objectives</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Progressive allocation: a higher</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Strong regional dimension</b> and involvement of social partners</li><li>➤ <b>Multi-level governance</b></li></ul>

# Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)

1. European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for period 2028-2034
  - ❖ National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPP) for investments and reforms => **shared** (like under the current EMFAF National programmes)
  - ❖ EU Facility: **direct, shared and indirect**

➡ **Auxiliary legal proposals** Sectorial proposals for different policy areas supported under the NRP Fund, including **the proposal establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to Common Fisheries Policy, to the European Ocean Pact and maritime and aquaculture**
2. European Competitiveness Fund and Horizon Europe – **direct**
  - ❖ Support for investments in fisheries, aquaculture and maritime sectors.
3. Global Europe Fund – **direct and indirect**
  - ❖ Support **ocean diplomacy and international ocean governance and partnerships with non-EU countries.**

# Financial Framework



# Fisheries, aquaculture and ocean-related activities under the NRPP

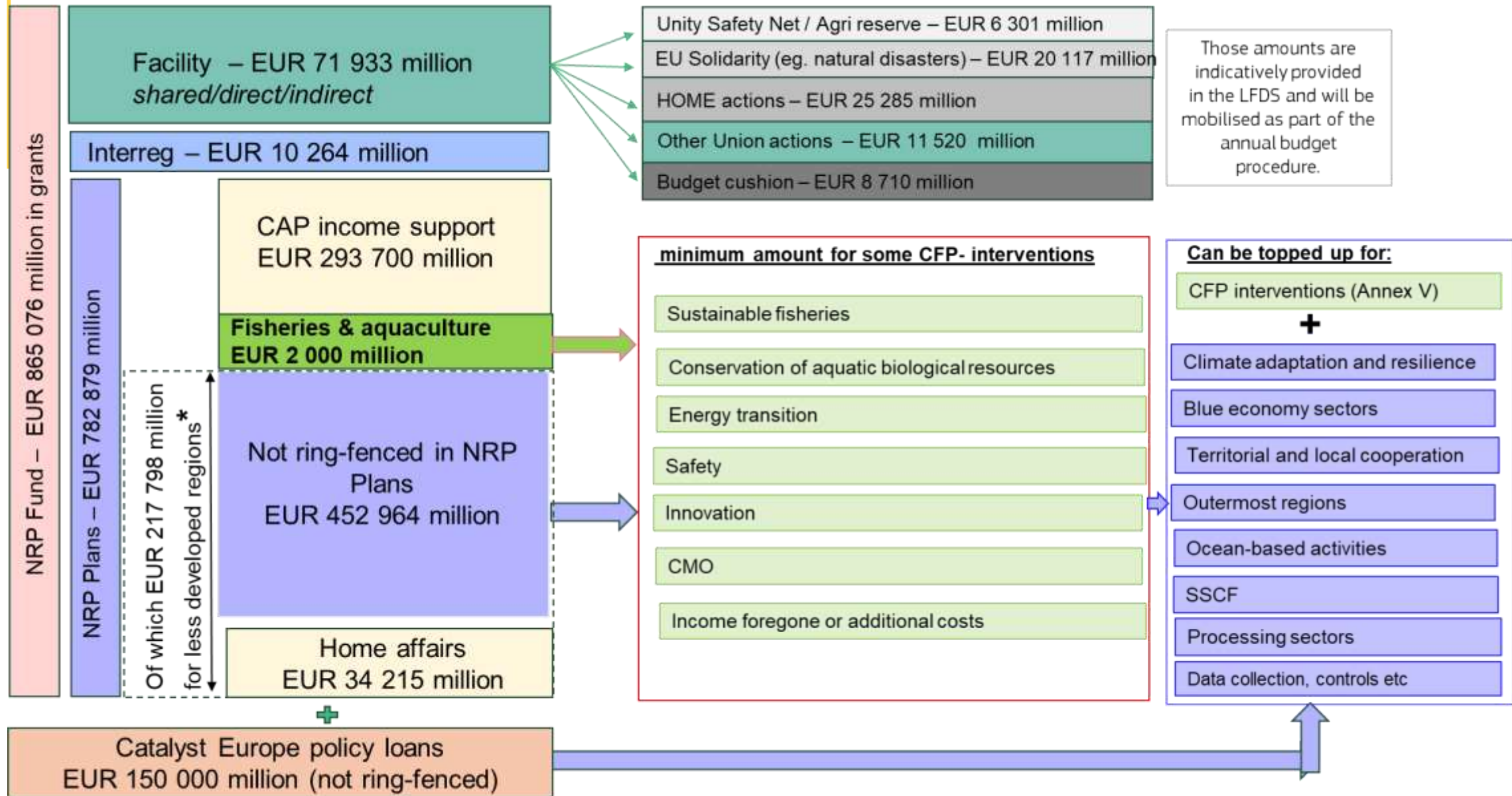
- **Minimum amount:**

- ❖ **Earmarked amount of EUR 2 billion euro for purely maritime and fisheries needs** to implement the core areas of the CFP and for compensation for crises and exceptional circumstances.
- ❖ MS can use the ring-fenced amount to support the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources, energy transition, innovation, producer organizations.

- **Beyond the required minimum:**

- ❖ MSs can allocate additional resources under the non-ringfenced amount of **453 billion euro** to address their priorities and needs to support the fisheries, aquaculture and maritime sectors, to implement the CFP and to support the implementation of the European Ocean Pact.
- ❖ Under the **EU Facility** (72 billion in total, out of which 11,5 billion available, among others, for CFP support), the Commission can support the implementation of specific areas under the CFP, such as scientific advice, data collection and control

**Future framework provides further access to spend more on fisheries and ocean-based activities**



\* LDR earmarking can be used for any amount not ring-fenced for CAP and CFP amounts. CAP interventions above CAP ring-fenced amount can contribute to earmarking for LDR.

*In current prices*



# Legal architecture of the fund

## Laying down rules on:

**tasks, priority objectives, organisation and grouping under the Fund**

The Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund

Instrument  
s for the  
CAP

Instrument  
s for the  
CFP

SC  
F

support to  
security and  
defence  
capabilities

**financial rules for Union support**

NRPP

Interreg

EU Facility

**financial resources for the period from 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2034.**

Prevailing over the sectoral regulations



## Sectoral regulations

setting out specific conditions to complement the Fund Regulation  
'Union support will be provided under the NRPP'

Regulation on ERDF/CF incl. Interreg

Regulation on ESF

Regulations on CAP and CMO

Regulation on CFP, Aquaculture and Maritime Policies, Ocean Act

Regulations for migration, asylum, border management and internal security policy

# Objectives of the fund

**General objectives** reflecting Treaty-based objectives and the NRP Plans' legal architecture to be pursued through more comprehensive **specific objectives** grouped around **5 pillars**:

## General objectives (art.2)

Reduce regional imbalances, promote European territorial cooperation  
[ERDF/CF]

Support social policies [ESF] and a socially fair transition

Support the Implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy [CAP]

Support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy [CFP]

Protect and strengthen democracy, uphold Union values



## Specific objectives (art.3)

(a) Support the Union's sustainable prosperity across all regions

(b) Support the Union's defence capabilities and security

(c) Strengthen social cohesion (people, societies, social model)

(d) Sustain the quality of life in the Union

(e) Protect and strengthen fundamental rights, democracy, the rule of law, Union values

# Conditions for implementation of the NRP Fund related to the CFP, the European Ocean Pact and to the maritime and aquaculture policies

- **Single rulebook:** Programming and implementation rules are laid down in the NRP, whereas the policy maintains an independent legal basis with additional rules and conditions.
- **Articles 1&2:** Proposal makes it clear that the NRP Fund will contribute to the European Ocean Pact and the implementation of the environmental, economic, social and employment objectives of the CFP. See also recitals 1-4.
- **Article 3 - complements Art. 22 on the requirements of the NRP Plan:**
  - Requirement for MS to account for the needs of fisheries, aquaculture, coastal communities and SSCF;
  - Aid intensities are set by the MS; for SSCF it can go up to 100%;
  - Requirement for MS to take into account the fishing capacity and fishing opportunities;
  - Requirement for MS to assess and ensure admissibility of operations (current Art.11 of EMFAF Reg.). Empowerment for a DA.

# Conditions for implementation of the NRP Fund related to the CFP, the European Ocean Pact and to the maritime and aquaculture policies

**From a cost-based to a performance based system:** Proposal keeps only basic eligibility rules that have to be fulfilled. MS can design and implement their measures according to their needs and priorities.

- **Article 4 – Eligibility conditions for support:**
  - Requirement for MS to ensure that support complies with the WTO, the objectives and Art. 2 of the CFP.
  - Requirement for beneficiaries to comply with the CFP and not to commit infringements and offences within 5 years.
  - Exclusion from support for the transfer or reflagging of fishing vessels to third countries. Exclusion from support for the transfer of ownership of a business and of deep sea mining.
- **Principle of the “do-no-significant-harm” laid down in the proposal for a Performance Regulation applies to the entire EU budget.** Sector-specific guidelines will be prepared in order to ensure that no activities that could cause considerable harm and hinder environmental objectives will be supported.

# The European Ocean Pact

- Sustaining the ocean that sustains us! *#EUCOceanPact*
- The [Ocean Pact Communication](#) was adopted on 5 June 2025 and was presented at the **UN Ocean Conference in Nice on 9 June 2025**.
- It is the EU's **long-term vision for the ocean**.
- It brings together EU ocean policies into a unified framework to better **protect the ocean, promote a thriving blue economy and support the well-being of people living in coastal areas**, islands and outermost regions.

# Evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Regulation

- **Evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Regulation** – announced in March 2024 following discussions on the Communication on the functioning of the common fisheries policy. Key deliverable of Commissioner Kadis' mission letter.
- **Objective:** to provide an evidence-based assessment of whether the CFP Regulation is still fit for purpose or where lessons can be learned for improving.
- **In line with Commission's Better Regulation Standards; assessment of the five key evaluation criteria:** efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, coherence, EU added value.
- **Public feedback** was collected through a call for evidence in 2024 (87 responses - [link](#)), an open public consultation with detailed questions in 2025 (362 replies & summary report - [link](#))
- **Final product is the evaluation report – a staff working document** drafted by the Commission to be published in 2026.

# Vision 2040 for fisheries and aquaculture

- [Commissioner Kadis' mission letter](#) requires the preparation of a “*vision for the fisheries sector with a 2040 perspective*” that should “*tackle the issues that affect the fishing community, supports job creation in the sector and ensures its long-term competitiveness and sustainability*”.
- It will make **strategic links with key Commission wide initiatives**: Competitiveness Compass, Nature Restoration Law, Communication on implementation and simplification, Communication on a Union of Skills; and complement the Vision for agriculture and food.
- It will provide a coherent **framework and direction to key MARE initiatives**, including the energy transition roadmap, communication of on fisheries external action and conclusions from the CFP Regulation evaluation.
- Some **key axes of reflection** will include:
  - Consumer demand for sustainably caught/farmed fish.
  - Supply of sustainably caught/farmed fish.
  - Labour force with adapted knowledge to catch (fishers), farm and process the fish.
  - Tools to catch/farm fish that optimise costs, infrastructure to land/farm, sell, process and transport fish.

# Strengthening the social dimension of fisheries

DG MARE has been working on strengthening the social dimension of fisheries through:

- **The development of social data** to improve socio-economic assessments. This is done in close collaboration with the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries (STECF). A [social analysis toolbox](#) has been developed including National Fisheries Profiles (19 developed to date), Community Fisheries Profiles (to understand local realities) and social indicators.
- A first **dedicated social report** on fishing, aquaculture and processing will be produced in October 2025 by STECF ([EWG 25-13](#)) that will combine this qualitative and quantitative data.
- A **study on the level of training and certification** of fishers (2025) as part of considerations to harmonize the level of safety training for fishers in the EU ([link](#)).



# EMFF and EMFAF evaluations

- **EMFF ex-post evaluation and EMFAF mid-term evaluation in parallel**
- Supported by **external studies** conducted **over the past years**
- Application of **various methodological tools and approaches**
- **Reach-out to the wider public** (call for evidence, public consultation, surveys, targeted interviews and consultations, validation workshops etc.)
- **Evaluation studies and Commission's Staff Working Documents expected to be completed in 2025**

# Thank you!

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