



Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	2011/0380(COD) Procedure completed
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020 Repealing Regulation (EC) No 2328/2003 Repealing Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 Repealing Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 Repealing Regulation (EC) No 791/2007 Repealing Regulation (EU) 1255/2011 Repealed by Amended by Amended by Amended by Amended by	2003/0202(CNS) 2004/0169(CNS) 2005/0045(CNS) 2006/0247(CNS) 2010/0257(COD) 2018/0210(COD) 2019/0246(COD) 2020/0043(COD) 2020/0059(COD) 2022/0118(COD)
Subject 3.15.17 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		26/09/2011
		PPE CADEC Alain	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		S&D MILANA Guido	
		ALDE TORVALDS Nils	
		Verts/ALE ROMEVA I RUEDA Raül	
		ECR GIRLING Julie	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		19/01/2012	
	PPE LOPE FONTAGNÉ Verónica		
REGI Regional Development		26/01/2012	
	PPE ESTARÀS FERRAGUT Rosa		
TRAN Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
BUDG Budgets		06/02/2012	
	Verts/ALE ALFONSI François		
Committee for opinion on the legal basis	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed	
JURI Legal Affairs		26/06/2013	

Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3285	16/12/2013
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3253	15/07/2013
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3216	28/01/2013
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3193	22/10/2012
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3165	14/05/2012
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3155	19/03/2012
	Agriculture and Fisheries	3137	15/12/2011
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	DAMANAKI Maria	
European Economic and Social Committee			
European Committee of the Regions			

Key events

02/12/2011	Legislative proposal published	COM(2011)0804	Summary
15/12/2011	Debate in Council	3137	Summary
15/12/2011	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
19/03/2012	Debate in Council	3155	Summary
14/05/2012	Debate in Council	3165	Summary
22/10/2012	Debate in Council	3193	
28/01/2013	Debate in Council	3216	
10/07/2013	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
15/07/2013	Debate in Council	3253	Summary
07/08/2013	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A7-0282/2013	
22/10/2013	Debate in Parliament		
23/10/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		
23/10/2013	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T7-0441/2013	Summary
16/12/2013	Debate in Council	3285	
16/04/2014	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T7-0443/2014	Summary
06/05/2014	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
15/05/2014	Final act signed		
15/05/2014	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/05/2014	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2011/0380(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Repealing Regulation (EC) No 2328/2003 2003/0202(CNS) Repealing Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 2004/0169(CNS) Repealing Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 2005/0045(CNS) Repealing Regulation (EC) No 791/2007 2006/0247(CNS) Repealing Regulation (EU) 1255/2011 2010/0257(COD) Repealed by 2018/0210(COD) Amended by 2019/0246(COD) Amended by 2020/0043(COD) Amended by 2020/0059(COD) Amended by 2022/0118(COD)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 042-p1; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 043-p2; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 192-p1; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 194-p2; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 173-p3; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 195-p2; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 091-p1; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 188 -a1; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 100-p2; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 175-p3
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/7/08042

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(2011)0804	02/12/2011	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2011)1416	02/12/2011	EC	
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2011)1417	02/12/2011	EC	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES1594/2012	11/07/2012	ESC	
Committee draft report		PE494.539	04/09/2012	EP	
Committee opinion	EMPL	PE491.019	10/10/2012	EP	
Committee opinion	REGI	PE494.699	29/10/2012	EP	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE489.647	06/12/2012	EP	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE478.640	19/12/2012	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE496.422	17/01/2013	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE496.423	17/01/2013	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE502.251	17/01/2013	EP	

Amendments tabled in committee		PE502.252	17/01/2013	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE502.253	17/01/2013	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE502.260	17/01/2013	EP	
Supplementary legislative basic document		COM(2013)0245	22/04/2013	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES3399/2013	22/05/2013	ESC	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE510.773	07/06/2013	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE513.096	28/06/2013	EP	
Document attached to the procedure		SWD(2013)0299	30/07/2013	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0282/2013	08/08/2013	EP	
Specific opinion	JURI	PE516.593	12/08/2013	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading/single reading		T7-0441/2013	23/10/2013	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0443/2014	16/04/2014	EP	Summary
Draft final act		00020/2014/LEX	15/05/2014	CSL	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2014)471	09/07/2014	EC	
Follow-up document		COM(2016)0812	20/12/2016	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		SWD(2016)0447	20/12/2016	EC	
Follow-up document		COM(2018)0048	30/01/2018	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		SWD(2020)0221	02/10/2020	EC	
Follow-up document		SWD(2020)0222	02/10/2020	EC	
Follow-up document		COM(2022)0284	14/06/2022	EC	

Additional information

National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act

[Regulation 2014/508](#)
[OJ L 149 20.05.2014, p. 0001](#) Summary

[Corrigendum to final act 32014R0508R\(07\)](#)
[OJ L 088 31.03.2017, p. 0022](#)

Delegated acts

2014/2982(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2014/3019(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2015/2547(DEA)	Examination of delegated act

2015/2873(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2015/2823(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2015/2641(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2014/2773(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2014/2785(DEA)	Examination of delegated act
2017/2743(DEA)	Examination of delegated act

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020

PURPOSE: to establish a European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and define its objectives.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

BACKGROUND: the Commission adopted on October 6th 2011 a [proposal for a "Common Provisions" Regulation](#) which lays down common rules for the shared-management funds, with the main aim of simplification of policy delivery. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), Cohesion Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the future European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (CSF Funds) pursue complementary objectives and share the same management mode. The "Common Provisions" Regulation sets out a series of common rules for these funds.

The [Commission proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework \(MFF\) 2014-2020](#) adopted on 29 June 2011 set the budgetary framework and main orientations for the funding of Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP).

This proposal for the Regulation on European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) aims at achieving the objectives of the reformed CFP and of IMP. It is based on these objectives, re-defined in terms of funding:

- § promotion of sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture;
- § fostering the development and implementation of the Union's Integrated Maritime Policy, in a complementary manner to cohesion policy and to CFP;
- § promotion of balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries areas (including aquaculture and inland fishing);
- § contribution to the implementation of the CFP.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: on the basis of the FIGG ex-post evaluation, the interim evaluation of the EFF and the impact assessment for the CFP reform, the impact assessment of the EMFF assesses three alternative scenarios:

1. the "EFF+", which is a continuation of the current EFF without most of the direct fleet subsidies and the support focused on the objectives of the CFP reform;
2. the "EFF+ integration", in which the other CFP funding instruments are integrated into a post EFF fund, but keep the same management mode as today and
3. the "EFF+ convergence" in which support to IMP is also integrated under the new single fund and all the instruments are brought to the extent possible under the shared management.

The impact assessment concluded that the "EFF+ Convergence" performs better than the two other options on the three impact indicators chosen for the analysis: (i) the reduction of the impact of fisheries on the environment; (ii) the closure of the innovation gap in fisheries and aquaculture and (iii) the number of jobs created in communities dependent on fisheries.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 42, Article 43(2), Article 91(1), Article 100(2), Article 173(3), Article 175, Article 188, Article 192(1), Article 194(2) and Article 195(2) TFEU.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that most of the current CFP and IMP financial instruments be integrated into one fund, with the exception of Sustainable Fisheries Agreements (SFAs) and the compulsory contribution to RFMOs.

EMFF focuses on CFP and IMP long-term strategic objectives including sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture, consistent policy framework for the further development of IMP and balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries areas.

The EMFF is structured around 4 pillars:

- § Smart, green Fisheries (shared management) to foster the transition to sustainable fishing which is more selective, produces no discards, does less damage to marine ecosystems and thus contributes to the sustainable management of marine ecosystems; and to provide support focused on innovation and value added, making the fisheries sector economically viable and resilient to external shocks and to competition from third countries.
- § Smart, green Aquaculture (shared management) - to achieve economically viable, competitive and green aquaculture, capable of facing global competition and providing EU consumers with healthy and high nutrition value products.
- § Sustainable and inclusive territorial development (shared management) - to reverse the decline of many coastal and inland communities dependent on fishing, through adding more value to fishing and fishing related activities and through diversification to other sectors of the maritime economy.
- § Integrated Maritime Policy (direct centralised management) to support those cross cutting priorities which generate savings and growth but which the Member States will not take forward on their own such as marine knowledge, maritime spatial planning,

integrated coastal zone management and integrated maritime surveillance, the protection of the marine environment, in particular its biodiversity, and adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change on coastal areas.

In addition to the four pillars, the EMFF will include accompanying measures: data collection and scientific advice, control, governance, fisheries markets (including outermost regions), voluntary payments to RFMOs and technical assistance.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: the envelope for 2014-2020, in current prices, is set at EUR 7,535 billion, including SFAs and the compulsory contributions to RFMOs, which will be funded separately. The EMFF budget amounts, in current prices to EUR 6567 million.

DELEGATED ACTS: the proposal contains provisions empowering the Commission to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020

The Council heard the Commissions presentation and hold an exchange of views on the proposal for a regulation on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

The EMFF proposal must be seen in the context of Commission's [proposal for a multiannual financial framework for 2014-2020](#), as well as the package for the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

The general objective of the EMFF is to support the objectives of the CFP and to further develop the EU's integrated maritime policy (IMP).

It is proposed to structure the EMFF around 4 pillars:

- smart green fisheries (shared management);
- smart green aquaculture (shared management);
- sustainable and inclusive territorial development (shared management); and
- integrated maritime policy (direct centralised management).

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020

The Council held a public debate on the three main proposals for regulations in the common fisheries policy (CFP) reform "package":

- [Proposal for a regulation on the CFP](#) replacing the basic provisions of the CFP;
- [Proposal for a regulation on the common organisation \(CMO\) of the markets in fishery](#) and aquaculture products focusing on market policy issues;
- Proposal for a regulation on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) replacing the existing European Fisheries Fund.

As regards the EMFF, many delegations mentioned aquaculture as a key EU priority with a view to meeting the objectives and obligations of the reformed CFP. Moreover, during this session, 16 Member States presented a joint declaration on enhanced support for aquaculture enterprises from the EMFF (Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain).

Research and innovation were also mentioned as key priorities of the EMFF.

Concerning measures financed by the EMFF, some Member States insisted that this Fund should continue to offer financial support for fleet renewal and aid for fishermen choosing to stop working in this area, whilst others argued that this fund needed to focus on innovation, growth and creation of jobs.

The debate established that the EMFF should be used to foster innovation and selectivity, environmental protection, data collection, scientific research and advice, and control of fishing operations.

Lastly, several Member States noted that whilst the use of the resources of the EMFF could be optimised for growth, creation of jobs and social cohesion in coastal and rural areas, there was a risk of increasing the administrative burden. Simplification was emphatically requested by many Member States.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020

The Council held two public debates in the framework of the common fisheries policy (CFP) reform.

- The first discussion focused on achieving environmental sustainability through maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and the integration of environmental law requirements into [the proposal covering the basic provisions of the CFP](#).
- The second debate explored further the proposal for a regulation on the European maritime and fisheries fund (EMFF), replacing the existing European fisheries fund.

Delegations broadly agreed on the EMFF proposal, pointing out that the EU should finance the ambitious CFP reform proposed.

- Several Member States questioned whether the part of the fund dedicated to controls and data collection was sufficient under the current proposal. With this in mind, some countries mentioned a possible transfer from the allocations for direct management to the allocation for shared management.
- Views differed on whether to maintain funding for modernising the fishing fleet and scrapping fishing boats through the EMFF, as was currently the case. Under the current proposal, the Commission does not plan to continue this funding.

- Member States were also divided on the storage aid which is part of the Commission proposal for the EMFF: some delegations considered this measure necessary as a safety net for the fish market while others were against providing public money for such market interventions and worried about their distorting effect on competitiveness.

Many delegations considered that the criteria for allocating funding between Member States were not precise enough and were still waiting for the figures for allocation following the decision on the MFF. Several Member States welcomed the criteria relating to small-scale fisheries and the criteria for aquaculture.

Timetable:

- In July 2011, the Council held an initial public exchange of views on Commission proposals for the reform of the CFP.
- In addition, as regards this reform, the Council held policy debates in March 2012 on the three main proposals for regulations in the CFP reform "package": basic provisions of the CFP, common organisation (CMO) of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products and the European maritime and fisheries fund (EMFF). The debate on the proposal for a regulation on the CFP focussed on the issue of a discard ban.
- At the last Council meeting in April 2012, the policy debates covered regionalisation and transferable fishing concessions (TFCs), two specific issues raised in the basic provisions of the CFP.

A final debate on the "general approach" to reform of the CFP will be organised by the Presidency in June 2012.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020

The Commission presents an amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

To recall, the initial Commission proposal for the EMFF Regulation of 2 December 2011 aligned the management and control system for the EMFF with the arrangements proposed for the EAFRD.

During the examination of the EMFF proposal in the Fisheries Working Group in the Council, a number of Member States expressed reservations as regards the shift to the system proposed by the Commission for management and control and for financial management. Although a majority of Member States indicated that they prefer alignment of the EMFF with the delivery system for cohesion policy, they also highlighted the need to take into account the principle of proportionality.

In order to facilitate the already on-going negotiations in the Council and the European Parliament, the Commission proposes a simultaneous amendment of the [Commission proposals for the Common Provisions Regulation](#) and of the EMFF Regulation to ensure simple and streamlined integration of the EMFF into an already existing set of rules for cohesion policy.

The objective is to build on the experience attained in previous programming periods and facilitates a smooth transition from one programming period to the next.

The main amendments proposed are as follows:

- the EMFF is integrated in the relevant provisions in the Common Provisions Regulation which were initially specific to cohesion policy, creating a new Part Four of the Common Provisions Regulation which applies to cohesion policy and to the EMFF;
- the respective provisions (which correspond to the delivery arrangements of the EAFRD or overlap with the articles of the Common Provisions Regulations in its amended form) are deleted from the EMFF Regulation and appropriate references to the CPR are introduced in the EMFF Regulation, where necessary.

Recitals and definitions are aligned with the changes to the articles and amendment of the structure of the regulations. The terminology used in the new Part Four is adjusted to accommodate the specificities of the EMFF and in certain instances it is clarified that the Fund-specific rules under the EMFF may set out complementary rules.

The amended proposal will have no budgetary implications.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020

The Council reached agreement on a full general approach on the proposal for a regulation on the European maritime and fisheries fund (EMFF) replacing the existing European fisheries fund.

The agreement specifically focused on issues covering budgetary resources under shared and direct management as well as financial distribution for shared management "allocation criteria" and on the interruption of payment deadlines. Some of these outstanding issues had been left open pending an agreement on the 2014-2020 multi-annual financial framework (MFF) between EU institutions, which has now been reached.

On the basis of this full general approach, the Council is now in a position to start negotiating with the European Parliament.

The Council confirmed the political agreement reached by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on the outstanding issues concerning this proposal.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020

This document lays down the principles and recommendations for integrating climate change adaptation considerations under the 2014-2020 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) operational programmes.

Its main aim is to raise awareness among national authorities, experts and stakeholders on the impacts that climate change could have on the maritime and fisheries sectors and on the need to integrate climate change adaptation considerations into EU policies. It focuses mainly on the programming cycle of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund programmes.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report by Alain CADEC (EPP, FR) on the amended proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 and Council Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 and Council Regulation No XXX/2011 on integrated maritime policy.

The committee recommends that Parliaments position adopted at first reading, according to the ordinary legislative procedure, should be to amend the Commissions proposal as follows:

Objectives: the EMFF should contribute to the following objectives:

- promoting environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially responsible fisheries, aquaculture and related activities of processing or marketing;
- promoting a balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries and aquaculture areas;
- fostering the implementation of the CFP, including its regionalisation and the implementation of the common organisation of the markets
- fostering job creation in order to prevent the disappearance of fishing communities and delivering improved qualifications and working conditions in the fisheries sector.

The EMFF should take full account of the specific situation of the outermost regions.

The achievement of the objectives of the EMFF should be pursued through the following Union priorities:

- enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries and improvement of their health, hygiene, safety and working conditions;
- development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning, in particular for young fishermen;
- support to strengthening technological development, technical, social and economic innovation and knowledge transfer;
- improved market organisation for aquaculture products and encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors;
- prevention, minimisation and, as far as possible, elimination of unwanted catches and of negative impacts of fisheries on the marine environment, especially through better selectivity of fishing gears;
- ensuring a balance between fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities;
- promotion of resource efficient aquaculture, including by reducing dependence on fish food and oil and reducing the use of chemicals and antibiotics;
- assessment, reduction and, where possible, elimination of the impacts of aquaculture activities on marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems.

Eligibility of applications: support shall not be granted to operators who have committed serious infringements of national or Union law applicable in the following areas: pay and employment conditions in the trade; professional liability; human or drug trafficking; working hours and rest periods for fishermen; health and safety legislation; pay and employment conditions in the trade; the initial qualification and continuous training of fishermen. Other non-applicable include operations jeopardising the sustainability of marine biological resources and ecosystems and destructive employment measures.

Overcapacity: although the Commission justifies its proposed reform of the CFP by asserting that the European fishing fleet suffers from overcapacity, Members drew attention to the questionable nature of this premise by stating that the Commission has so far failed to define what it means by overcapacity, so it is difficult to prove whether or not it exists.

The report called on the Member States to respect the fleet size limits determined in the basic Regulation. In this connection, the payments and commitments under the EMFF should be suspended for Member States, which fail to respect their capacity ceilings.

Transferable fishing concessions: Members are opposed to the introduction of transferable fishing concessions which was the key measure proposed in the basic Regulation to limit the alleged overcapacity. According to Members, such an arrangement would serve to monetise fishing rights and would endanger smallscale and coastal fishing.

Fleet renewal: with a view to modernising and renewing the Union's ageing fleet, the EMFF should contribute towards investment in new fishing vessels to replace obsolete vessels that are scrapped or reassigned to nonfishing activities. Such investment should result in higher standards of onboard safety, energy efficiency and fishing gear selectivity and should not increase fishing capacity.

Data collection and transmission: the report recalled the paramount importance of funding data collection, the cornerstone of the CFP and the essential prerequisite for the definition of precise objectives to be achieved, particularly as regards the achievement of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and better fisheries management.

In this context, Members proposed that Member States which do not fulfil their data collection and transmission obligations or fail to report their actual fishing fleet and capacity should have their funds from the EMFF frozen or decreased.

Mutual funds: in order to safeguard fishermens incomes, contributions should be made from the EMFF to mutual funds that cover losses resulting from natural disasters, bad weather, environmental or healthrelated accidents or sharp rises in fuel prices.

Social dialogue: the EMFF should provide support for social dialogue at European, national, regional and local level, involving the social partners and enhancing their organisational capabilities.

Financing: annual appropriations should be authorised by the European Parliament and the Council without prejudice to the provisions of the Regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 and the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, Council and the Commission on cooperation in budgetary matters and sound financial management.

Integrated Maritime Policy: the budgetary resources allocated to the Integrated Maritime Policy should not exceed 6 % of the total EMFF budget.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020

The European Parliament adopted amendments to the amended proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 and Council Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 and Council Regulation No XXX/2011 on integrated maritime policy.

The issue has been sent back to the committee responsible. The vote has been postponed to a later plenary session, pending the adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework.

The main amendments were as follows:

Objectives: the EMFF should contribute to the following objectives:

- promoting environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially responsible fisheries, aquaculture and related activities of processing or marketing;
- promoting a balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries and aquaculture areas;
- fostering the implementation of the CFP, including its regionalisation and the implementation of the common organisation of the markets
- fostering job creation in order to prevent the disappearance of fishing communities and delivering improved qualifications and working conditions in the fisheries sector.

The EMFF should take full account of the specific situation of the outermost regions.

The achievement of the objectives of the EMFF should be pursued through the following Union priorities:

- support innovative operations and the ecologically sustainable development of businesses, in accordance with the precautionary principle and an ecosystembased approach .
- focus on helping young people gain access to the fishing sector by, for example, by contributing to firsttime business startups through the creation of specific mechanisms and incentives which should not exceed EUR 100 000 for young fishermen who are acquiring a vessel for the first time;
- promote small scale coastal fishing, Member States should attach to their operational programmes action plans for developing such fishing and for ensuring that it is competitive and sustainable;
- support local, sustainable management of the fisheries involved and the development of coastal communities;
- support investments for the protection and preservation of maritime heritage and related traditional crafts;
- prevention, minimisation and, as far as possible, elimination of unwanted catches, especially through better selectivity of fishing gears;
- support investments to reduce the contribution of the fishing sector to emissions of greenhouse gases;
- promote more selective gears and equipment and support the development of more fuelefficient vessels;
- support the establishment, management, monitoring and control of a coherent network of fish stock recovery areas.

These objectives should be pursued without increasing fishing capacity.

The EMFF should take full account of the specific situation of the outermost regions.

Eligibility of applications: support shall not be granted to operators who have committed serious infringements of national or Union law applicable in the following areas: pay and employment conditions in the trade; professional liability; human or drug trafficking; working hours and rest periods for fishermen; health and safety legislation; pay and employment conditions in the trade; the initial qualification and continuous training of fishermen. Other non-applicable include operations jeopardising the sustainability of marine biological resources and ecosystems and destructive employment measures.

Overcapacity: although the Commission justifies its proposed reform of the CFP by asserting that the European fishing fleet suffers from overcapacity, Members drew attention to the questionable nature of this premise by stating that the Commission has so far failed to define what it means by overcapacity, so it is difficult to prove whether or not it exists.

Parliament called on the Member States to respect the fleet size limits determined in the basic Regulation. In this connection, the payments and commitments under the EMFF should be suspended for Member States, which fail to respect their capacity ceilings, in the light of the assessment carried out three years after the date of entry into force of this Regulation.

Transferable fishing concessions: Members are opposed to the introduction of transferable fishing concessions which was the key measure proposed in the basic Regulation to limit the alleged overcapacity. According to Members, such an arrangement would serve to monetise fishing rights and would endanger smallscale and coastal fishing.

Data collection and transmission: Parliament recalled the paramount importance of funding data collection, the cornerstone of the CFP and the essential prerequisite for the definition of precise objectives to be achieved, particularly as regards the achievement of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and better fisheries management.

In this context, Members proposed that Member States which do not fulfil their data collection and transmission obligations or fail to report their actual fishing fleet and capacity should have their funds from the EMFF frozen or decreased.

Mutual funds: in order to safeguard fishermens incomes, contributions should be made from the EMFF to mutual funds that cover losses resulting from natural disasters, bad weather, environmental or healthrelated accidents or sharp rises in fuel prices.

Social dialogue: the EMFF should provide support for social dialogue at European, national, regional and local level, involving the social partners and enhancing their organisational capabilities.

Financing: annual appropriations should be authorised by the European Parliament and the Council without prejudice to the provisions of the Regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 and the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, Council and the Commission on cooperation in budgetary matters and sound financial management.

- A maximum of 71.86% of the resources should be allocated to the sustainable development of fisheries, aquaculture and fisheries

areas.

- A minimum of 12.5% of the resources should be allocated to control and enforcement measures.
- A minimum of 12.97% of the resources should be allocated to measures on data collection.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020

The European Parliament adopted by 473 to 52 votes with 40 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the amended proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

The report was sent back to committee at the plenary session of 23 October 2013.

Parliament adopted its position at first reading following the ordinary legislative procedure. The amendments adopted in plenary are the result of an agreement negotiated between the European Parliament and the Council. They modify the proposal as follows:

Objectives: Parliament and the Council stated that the EMFF should contribute to the following objectives of: a) promoting environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially responsible fisheries; b) fostering the implementation of the CFP; c) promoting a balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries and aquaculture areas. The pursuit of these goals should not result in any increase in fishing capacity.

The achievement of the objectives of the EMFF should be pursued through the following Union priorities:

- the reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches;
- the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems;
- the ensuring of a balance between fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities;
- the enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of smallscale coastal fleet, and the improvement of safety and working conditions;
- the provision of support to strengthen technological development and innovation, including increasing energy efficiency, and knowledge transfer;
- the development of professional training, new professional skills and lifelong learning;
- the improvement and supply of scientific knowledge as well as the improvement of the collection and management of data;
- increasing employment and territorial cohesion;
- the encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors.

Budget: the resources available for commitments from the EMFF for the period from 2014 to 2020 under shared management shall be EUR 5 749 331 600, broken down as follows:

- sustainable development of fisheries, aquaculture and fisheries areas, to marketing and processing-related measures and to technical assistance at the initiative of the Member States: EUR 4 340 800 000;
- control and enforcement measures: EUR 580 000 000;
- measures on data collection: EUR 520 000 000;
- compensation of outermost regions: EUR 192 500 000;
- storage aid: EUR 44 976 000;
- measures concerning the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP): EUR 71 055 600.

The resources for the period from 2014 to 2020 concerning measures under direct management shall be EUR 647 275 400 in current prices.

Support for young fishermen: Members ensured that the EMFF could provide business start-up support to young fishermen.

Young fishermen under the age of 40 and who have worked for at least five years as fisherman may be granted support up to EUR 75 000 to buy a fishing vessel with an overall length of less than 24 metres and between 5 and 30 years old.

Cessation of fishing activities: the EMFF may support measures for temporary cessation of fishing activities. The support should only be granted to owners of Union fishing vessels which have carried out fishing activities at sea for at least 120 days during the last two calendar years preceding the date of submission of the application for support.

The EMFF may support measures for the permanent cessation of fishing activities only when that is achieved through the scrapping of fishing vessels and subject to certain conditions being met.

Mutual funds: in order to safeguard fishermen's incomes, contributions should be made from the EMFF to mutual funds that pay financial compensation to fishermen for economic losses caused by adverse climatic events or by environmental incidents or for the rescue costs for fishermen or fishing vessels in the case of accidents at sea during their fishing activities.

Energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change: the EMFF may support investments in equipment or on board aimed at reducing the emission of pollutants or greenhouse gases. Investments in fishing gear are also eligible provided that they do not undermine the selectivity of that fishing gear.

The EMFF may support the replacement or modernisation of main or ancillary engines. The support may be granted only:

- for vessels up to 12 metres in overall length (provided that the new or modernised engine does not have more power in kW than the current engine);

- for vessels between 12 and 18 metres in overall length (provided that the power in kW of the new or modernised engine is at least 20 % lower than that of the current engine);
- for vessels between 18 and 24 metres in overall length (provided that the power in kW of the new or modernised engine is at least 30 % lower than that of the current engine).

Added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches: in order to improve the added value or quality of the fish caught, the EMFF may support: a) investments that add value to fishery products, in particular by allowing fishermen to carry out the processing, marketing and direct sale of their own catches; b) innovative investments on board that improve the quality of the fishery products.

The support should be conditional on the use of selective gears to minimise unwanted catches.

Aquaculture: entrepreneurs entering the sector should provide a business plan and, where the amount of investments is more than EUR 50 000, a feasibility study including an environmental assessment of the operations. Support should be granted only where it has been clearly demonstrated in an independent marketing report that good and sustainable market prospects exist for the product.

The EMFF should not give incentives to the farming of genetically modified organisms.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020

PURPOSE: to establish a European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council European on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2328/2003, (EC) No 861/2006, (EC) No 1198/2006 and (EC) No 791/2007 and Regulation (EU) No 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

CONTENT: the Regulation on the EMFF is part of the package of measures on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), as is the [Regulation](#) on the basic provisions of the CFP and the [Regulation](#) on markets. It defines Union financial measures for the implementation of the CFP.

The EMFF contributes to the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the implementation of the CFP. It is centred on the Unions priorities for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture and contributes to the achievement of the following objectives:

1) Promoting competitive, environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially responsible fisheries and aquaculture: for example:

- the reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches;
- the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems;
- the ensuring of a balance between fishing capacity and available fishing opportunities;
- the enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries enterprises, including of smallscale coastal fleet, and the enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and the improvement of safety and working conditions;
- the provision of support to strengthen technological development, including increasing energy efficiency;
- the promotion of aquaculture having a high level of environmental protection, and the promotion of animal health and welfare and of public health and safety;
- the development of professional training.

2) Fostering the implementation of the CFP: i) the improvement and supply of scientific knowledge; ii) the improvement of the collection and management of data; iii) the provision of support to monitoring, control and enforcement.

3) Increasing employment and territorial cohesion: i) the promotion of economic growth, social inclusion and job creation; ii) providing support to employability and labour mobility in coastal and inland communities which depend on fishing and aquaculture, including the diversification of activities within fisheries and into other sectors of maritime economy.

4) Fostering marketing and processing by pursuing the improvement of market organisation for fishery and aquaculture products and the encouragement of investment in the processing and marketing sectors.

5) Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) of the Union so as to complement cohesion policy and the CFP.

Budget and Financing: the Regulation establishes a distinction between categories of measures that are co-financed within the framework of shared management between the Union and the Member States, and those co-financed within the framework of direct management.

The resources available for commitments from the EMFF for the period from 2014 to 2020 under shared management shall be EUR 5 749 331 600 in current prices, broken down as follows:

- the sustainable development of fisheries, aquaculture and fisheries areas, to marketing and processing-related measures and to technical assistance at the initiative of the Member States: EUR 4 340 800 000;
- control and enforcement measures: EUR 580 000 000;
- measures on data collection: EUR 520 000 000;
- the compensation of outermost regions: EUR 192 500 000;
- storage aid: EUR 44 976 000;
- measures concerning the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP): EUR 71 055 600.

The resources for the period 2014 to 2020, concerning measures under direct management amounts to EUR 647 275 400 in current prices.

The measures financed under shared management provide, among other things:

- start-up support for young fishermen under 40 years of age: individual support for start up can go up to EUR 75 000 if they make the first acquisition of a fishing or coastal vessel with an overall length of less than 24 metres, of between 5 and 30 years old, and if they have at least five years professional experience in the sector;
- measures relating to temporary and permanent cessation of fishing activities, under certain conditions;
- contribution to mutual funds which pay financial compensation to fishermen for economic losses caused by adverse climatic events or by environmental incidents or for the rescue costs for fishermen or fishing vessels in the case of accidents at sea during their fishing activities;
- support for the systems of allocation of fishing opportunities;
- support to operations aimed at developing improved fishing gear selectivity;
- support to the collection of waste from the sea by fishermen, as well as contributing to better management or conservation of the biological resources of the sea;
- support for investments in equipment or on board aimed at reducing the emission of pollutants or green-house gases and increasing the energy efficiency of fishing vessels on certain conditions;
- support for investments that add value to fishery products or improve the quality of the fish caught.

Aquaculture: the Regulation specifies that entrepreneurs entering the sector shall provide a business plan and, where the amount of investments is more than EUR 50 000, a feasibility study, including an environmental assessment of the operations.

Support shall be granted only where it has been clearly demonstrated in an independent marketing report that good and sustainable market prospects exist for the product. Support shall not be granted to the farming of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Finally, the Commission may reduce or end the financial support given, or suspend payments, if it considers that the Union funds have not been correctly used.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 21.05.2014. The Regulation applies from 01.01.2014.

DELEGATED ACTS: the Commission may adopt delegated acts in order to supplement and amend certain non-essential elements of the Regulation. The power to adopt such acts shall be conferred on the Commission until 31 December 2020. The European Parliament or the Council may object to a delegated act within a period of two months from the date of notification (this period can be extended for two months). If the European Parliament or the Council make objections, the delegated act will not enter into force.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020

This Commission report is the first in a series of annual reports to the EU institutions on the implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds). It provides an overview of the 2016 annual implementation reports on the 533 programmes submitted by Member States and regions for the 2014-2015 period and summarises the available evaluations of these programmes.

The late adoption of the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014-2020 has had an impact on the adoption of legislation governing the ESI Funds. By the end of 2014, 220 programmes had been adopted. However, the majority (313) of programmes were finalised in 2015 181 of which were completed only in the second half of the year.

Progress in implementation: on the basis of the 2016 annual implementation reports covering 2014 and 2015, it appears that the total volume of projects selected for support from the Funds amounted to EUR 58.8 billion, or 9.2% of the total volume of investment planned for the 2014-2020 period. The EUs contribution to the selected projects is estimated at EUR 41.8 billion.

- According to the most recent financial data submitted up to the autumn of 2016, implementation has accelerated significantly in terms of the volume of project selection. The total financial volume of selected projects more than doubled in nine months, from EUR 58.8 billion at the end of 2015 to EUR 128.8 billion (20.2% of planned investments).
- By the end of 2015, the Member States and regions had selected 989 000 projects ranging from investments in heavy infrastructure to individual support to farms and fishing businesses. A total of 274 000 businesses benefited from the selected operations. More than 10% of Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) are operational and local development strategies are selected ;
- At the time of the adoption of the programmes, about 75% of all conditionalities to ensure investment effectiveness (ex ante conditions) were met. In this context, Finland for example adopted national legislation that ensures administrative capacity is available to comply with the implementation of a control inspection and enforcement system required by the common fisheries policy;
- The implementation of programme structures and procedures to ensure the robustness and quality of investments throughout the programme life cycle has been important for the successful launch of the programmes.
- Lastly, more than two-thirds of the country-specific recommendations adopted in 2014 in the context of the European Semester concerned investments under the ESI Funds and were therefore integrated into the priorities of the Member States programmes.

Implementation by theme: the report provides an overview of the financial volume and the selection rate of projects for the ESI Funds by thematic objective at the end of 2015. The main findings are as follows:

- in total, around EUR 181 billion was provided for investments in the area of research and innovation, information and communications technology and SME competitiveness, mainly from the ERDF and the EAFRD. The competitiveness of SMEs is a priority under the ERDF, EAFRD and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) programmes. At the end of 2015, support of EUR 7.5 billion was allocated to specific projects (8.9% of the total planned). Around 80% of the EMFF projects planned over the period aim to strengthen SMEs and increase the competitiveness of the fleet and of aquaculture enterprises;
- at the end of 2015, an amount of over EUR 20 billion was already allocated to specific projects in the fields of the low-carbon economy

(EUR 2.3 billion), climate change (EUR 6.6 billion), the environment and transport (EUR 7.6 billion), and energy networks (EUR 4.1 billion), representing around 9% of the total amount across all the funds contributing directly (ERDF, Cohesion Fund, EAFRD and EMFF). The majority of selected projects aim at protecting and restoring marine biodiversity by increasing physical control of landings and lowering the volume of unwanted catches;

- projects representing more than EUR 11.5 billion (more than 12% of the planned amount) were selected in the field of employment, social inclusion and education. In Denmark and Sweden, projects have been selected under the EMFF supporting employability and labour mobility in coastal communities.

The Commission now considers it vital that the implementation of the new programmes is accelerated throughout the European Union.

Recent data show a more uniform state of advancement in most Member States and themes. The evolution of these trends will be further evaluated in the 2017 reporting cycle, which will provide a more comprehensive picture of implementation and allow for better reporting on a qualitative level.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020

The Commission presented a report on the implementation of the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

The purpose of this first report is to take stock of the implementation of the Common Evaluation and Monitoring System (CMES) for shared management operations co-financed by the EMFF. A report must be submitted every four years.

As a reminder, the CMES was established to assess the progress made in the implementation of the EMFF and to support the decision-making process in this regard at both national and EU level.

The objectives of the CMES are as follows:

- to demonstrate the progress and achievements of the common fisheries policy (CFP) and the integrated maritime policy (IMP), to consider the general impact and to assess the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of EMFF operations;
- to contribute to better targeted support for the CFP and the IMP;
- to support a common learning process related to monitoring and evaluation;
- to provide robust, evidence-based evaluations of EMFF operations that feed into the decision-making process.

The report indicates that progress is being made towards the four objectives of the CMES but that further work is still required to achieve them fully.

EMFF intervention logic: the intervention logic of the EMFF is well suited to the structure of the Fund (Union priorities - specific objectives - measures), but the late inclusion of the EMFF under the umbrella of the CPR required supplementary reporting at the level of thematic objectives common to all ESIF. This added an extra layer of complexity to the intervention logic and made reporting more difficult for Member States.

Accordingly, the intervention logic should be simpler and more result oriented, showing clearly which measure or action contributes to which objectives and how is this measured.

Common indicators: the use of common indicators and the new monitoring system provide a robust set of data that can be used for monitoring purpose but also for decision-making.

Despite a series of small shortcomings and issues at different levels that have prevented an optimal functioning of the system in the initial stages, problems were identified and solved in cooperation with Member States.

Before starting the programming exercise, Member States should receive methodological framing from the Commission on the definitions of the indicators and on the calculation methods to be used for setting the targets. Common indicators should cover all investments, and Member States should have the flexibility to use supplementary indicators to be used at the national level.

Cumulative data on operations (Infosys): these data provide a 'dashboard' enabling the Commission and the Member States to better monitor progress in the implementation of the EMFF. It also allows the Commission to draw conclusions at EU, sea basin and Member State level, and has already proved very useful to support decision-making.

The report notes that the current set-up of the CMES provides useful data for assessing its contribution to the development of the fisheries sector and to the objectives of EU 2020. However, further research might be required when it comes to assessing the contribution of the EMFF to priorities related to the CFP or to maritime policy, such as the implementation of the landing obligation or the fight against marine litter. It would help if a future CMES would include indicators that are more closely related to these policies.

Common learning process: to ensure consistency and further develop the CMES, the Commission established a technical assistance facility FAME (fisheries and aquaculture monitoring and evaluation) supported by an external contractor over the seven years of the programming period.

Lastly, evaluations have not yet been finalised due to the delay in the implementation of the EMFF. A working paper is currently being developed that will provide Member States with guidance and explanations for their evaluations, which should start in 2018. Common indicators and the Infosys data should be of great help in obtaining robust evaluations in the near future.