



Public Hearing  
Committee on Fisheries of the European Parliament

Implementation of the EMFF achievements  
since 2014 and perspectives after 2020

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# Main topics of the presentation

- Importance of the fishing sector as producer of healthy food
- Is the aid justified? Is it necessary?
- Challenges
- Is the current EMFF 2014-2020 framework working?
- Which European fisheries fund does the sector need post-2020?
- Take-home messages

# Fishing Industry Importance

 = 84.420 vessels

As food producers, the fishing sector has a clear added value and plays a major role for **food security**, differentiating us from other economic activities in the EU's integrated maritime policy and the blue growth strategy.

 = 5 million tonnes/yr

 = 14 billion meals/yr

 = value of €7 billion

**More than 80% of the seafood production in Europe comes from the fishing sector**

 = 152.700 fishers jobs

**EMFF should support and take care of our fish and fishermen!**



# Is the aid justified?

- **Article 39 - Treaty of European Union (TFEU)**  
*Need to ensure a fair standard of living for the fishing communities, in particular by increasing the individual earnings*  
*Structural and natural disparities between the various agricultural (fisheries) regions*
- **Article 2 – Common Fisheries Policy**  
*The CFP shall contribute to a fair standard of living for those who depend on fishing activities, bearing in mind coastal fisheries and socio-economic aspects*  
*Provide conditions for economically viable and competitive fishing industry*

# Is the aid justified?

- Ambitious objectives of the CFP

Funding necessary to adequately comply with the objectives of the CFP: environmental, social and economic sustainability, MSY, landing obligation, improved selectivity, ...

Costly EU standards for the sector

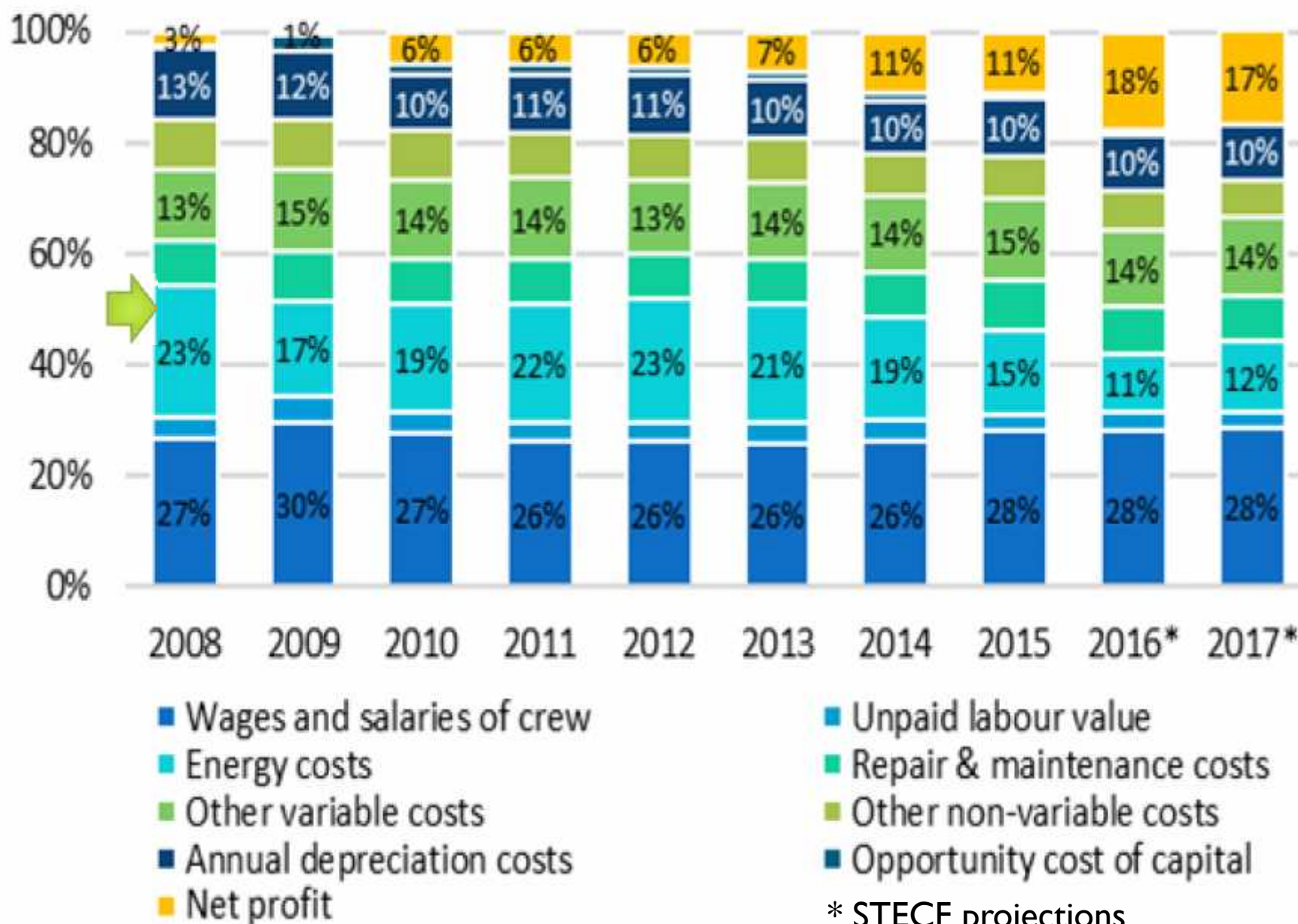
Need to remain competitive in a globalised industry

Need to promote energy efficiency, develop selective and environmentally friendly gears, collection of marine litter

# Challenges

- Main drivers of the positive economic performance :
  - Increased fishing opportunities
  - Better prices for some fish stocks
  - Low fuel prices
- Why then granting public support to a sector economically profitable?

# Trends on costs as a % of revenue (STECF 2017)



# Challenges

- **Brexit gap**  
UK contribution 2014-2020 = 240€ mill = 5%  
Fishing rights, fishing access and markets
- **Lack of implementation of current EMFF**  
Jeopardises the implementation of the CFP  
Puts into question the need for future funding



# Challenges

- **“Perfect storm”**

Landing obligation & MSY

Consequences of Brexit

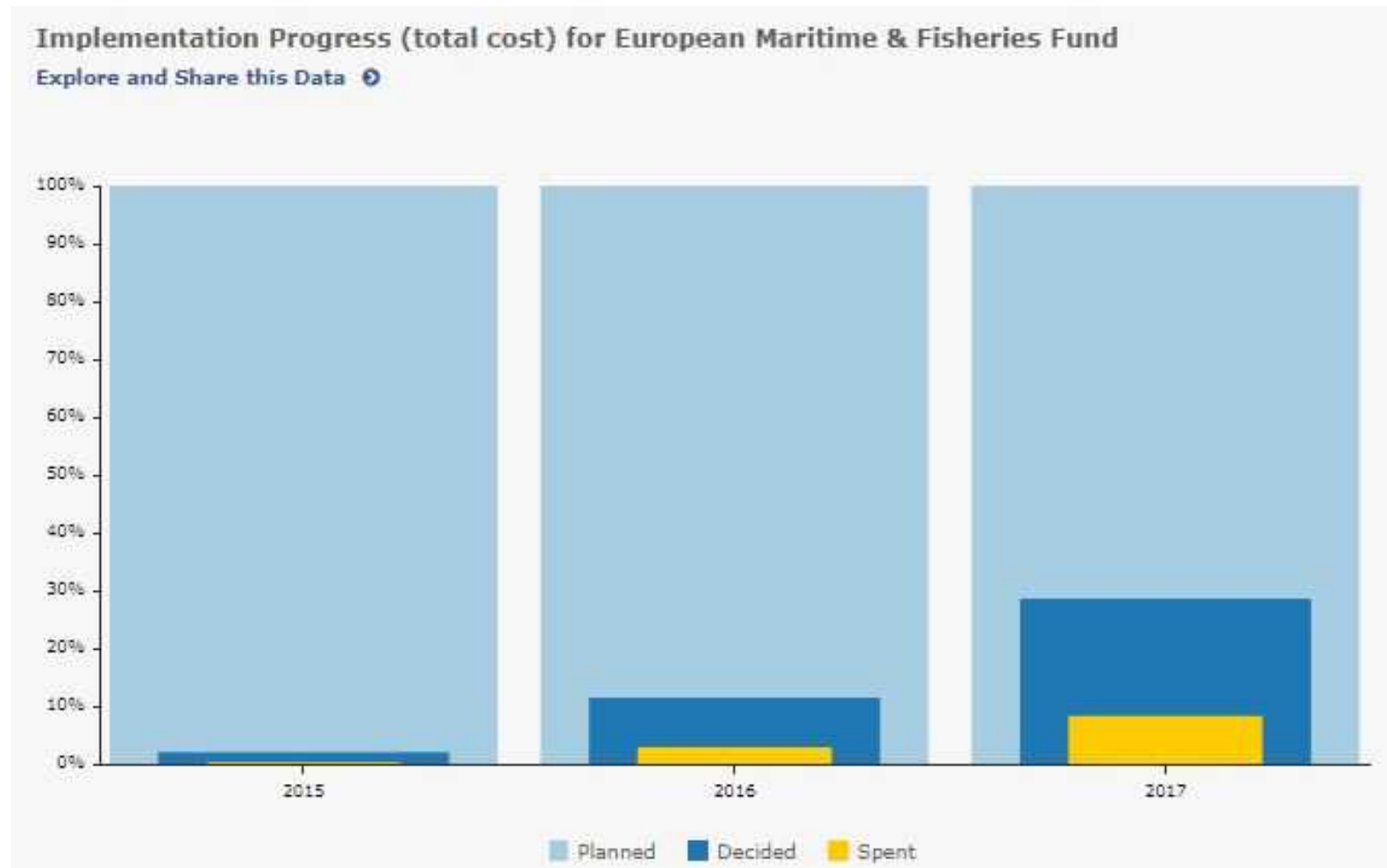
Ever-ageing fleet

Scarce workforce

## Suggestion to the European Parliament

- Increase the budget allocation proposed by the European Commission
- At least equal the past financial envelop

# Is the current EMFF 2014-2020 framework working?



<https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/funds/emff> (June 2018)



# Is the current EMFF 2014-2020 framework working?

- To date only 11% of the entire EMFF budget in the EU has been spent
- Main causes: late approval of the legislative framework, too much bureaucracy and MS are very scared to make a mistake
- Fishermen, particularly small-scale, frustrated with the requirements needed to receive funding

# Which European fisheries fund does the sector need post-2020?

- We call for a post-2020 **simplified** fisheries fund, with much less bureaucracy, allowing its full use from the very beginning
- **Flexible** financing mechanisms in the Operational Programmes
- Need to adopt a substantial financial envelope to finance both small and **large projects**, yet with different levels of administrative burdens
- Promoting the **development** and diversity of areas highly dependent on fisheries through FLAGs

# Which European fisheries fund does the sector need post-2020?

- Fostering industry **collaboration with scientists, innovation** and technological development
- Continuation of **scrapping schemes** in cases where these measures are necessary to balance fishing capacity with available fishing opportunities
- Need to finance **temporary cessations** of fishing activities caused by extraordinary circumstances
- Renewal and **modernization** of EU vessels which shall not result in an increase of fishing capacity

# Which European fisheries fund does the sector need post-2020?

- Promoting the **social dimension**: safety and well-being of crews through good working conditions (in line with ILO Convention 188) and training, to alleviate the current problem of **shortage of qualified professionals**
- Aid to improve the **data collection** and the **control** of all links in the commercial chain
- **Communication**

# Industry take-home messages

- Adopt the new EMFF before the end of the current legislative term (May 2019)
- Increase the budget allocation for sustainable fisheries
- Ease access to funding for all fishermen
- Enlarge the scope of the priorities proposed by the Commission



Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

