

**Question for written answer E-005572/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EMFF transitional fund

The negotiations for the European maritime affairs and fisheries fund (EMFF) in the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework are ongoing, and despite the efforts of all institutions, it seems certain that they will not finish in time to enter into force on 1 January 2021.

The EMFF has been instrumental in the full and complete implementation of the common fisheries policy. Interruption periods, such as at the beginning of current programme, have a profound impact on the sector, and in particular on the execution of the fund.

We recall that, after approval, Member States have a period of up to one year to have their operational programmes approved. Only after this step is it possible to submit projects and spend funds.

These procedures can lead to serious interruptions in funding, which could have especially dramatic effects due to the increased difficulties faced by the entire sector as result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

So we ask the Commission:

1. After 1 January 2021, how will it ensure the financing of new actions (which would no longer be eligible), or if funds are not available in the current financial framework?
2. Does the Commission intend to present a transition regulation, similar to measures for agriculture, which would allow for a smooth transition?