

**Priority question for written answer P-002059/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
France Jamet (ID)

Subject: Real accessibility of EMFAF support for engine replacement

The EMFAF Regulation (2021-2027)¹ provides for support for replacing the engine of fishing vessels provided that a comparative study can demonstrate that the new engine emits 20% less CO₂ or uses 20% less fuel than the old engine.

However, studies carried out by experts appear to show that, using conventional fuels such as diesel, there are currently no engines on the market which, in the specific field of professional maritime fishing, are able to use 20% less fuel or emit 20% less CO₂ for equal power.

The only solution for the new engine to meet the expected standards would be to use organic fuel of type HVO 100.

However, this is expensive and not available at most coastal ports. It would seem therefore that it is simply impossible to meet the criteria for eligibility for support for engine replacement of fishing vessels.

Will the Commission undertake to propose a revision of the EMFAF accessibility criteria, in particular Article 18, with a view to drawing up clear rules and achievable objectives for operators in the sector?

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¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund. Article 18 'Replacement or modernisation of a main or ancillary engine'.