



VIRGINIJUS SINKEVIČIUS
Commissioner for Environment
Oceans and Fisheries

Brussels,
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Esben Sverdrup-Jensen
President EAPO
H. Baelskaai 20, bus 0.2
8400 Oostende
BELGIUM
Email: info@epo.com

Javier Garat
President Europêche
Montoyerstraat 24
1000 Brussels
BELGIUM
Email: europa@europa.org

Dear Mr Sverdrup-Jensen, dear Mr Garat,

I thank you for your letter of 10 March concerning the impacts of the war in Ukraine and notably on measures to alleviate the sharp increase of energy costs.

I would like to stress that the Commission is actively listening to the concerns of all stakeholders, closely monitoring the socio-economic situation and assessing impacts. In this time of crisis, hearing your concerns is helpful for us in order to maintain a full understanding of the difficulties faced by European fishermen and by the fisheries sector as a whole. The war in Ukraine has disrupted the supply of raw materials and energy, trade and markets, the labour force, conducting fishing activities, and other aspects. The operation of businesses across all sectors, all the way along the supply chain has been disrupted. This includes fisheries, aquaculture and processing and it has short and long-term consequences.

I am also fully conscious that this crisis comes on top of the recent impacts of Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic on the sector.

In light of these disruptions and the consequent socio-economic impacts, let me assure you that we are considering all possible options across the full range of instruments available. This includes an unprecedented level of sanctions to disable the Russian war effort, while also considering the impacts these sanctions could have on the EU fishing sector. The sanctions

package is being complemented by actions to support EU operators and to help them both during the immediate crisis and to transition to a more resilient, energy efficient and sustainable future operating model in line with our EU Green Deal objectives. This includes looking at possible re-allocation of the existing funding under the EMFF (2014-2020), the relevant decisions under EMFAF (2021-2027), as well as EU State Aid options. We are working to act quickly to address the needs of the fishing sector, including those set out in your letter, while giving careful consideration to how best to address them.

I would like to invite you to keep a close contact with my services on these issues to provide updated information on the state of play as the situation evolves.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V. Sinkevičius', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Virginijus Sinkevičius