

Toward a Strategy for EU External Fisheries Action

Isabelle GARZON, DG MARE

Long Distance Advisory Council

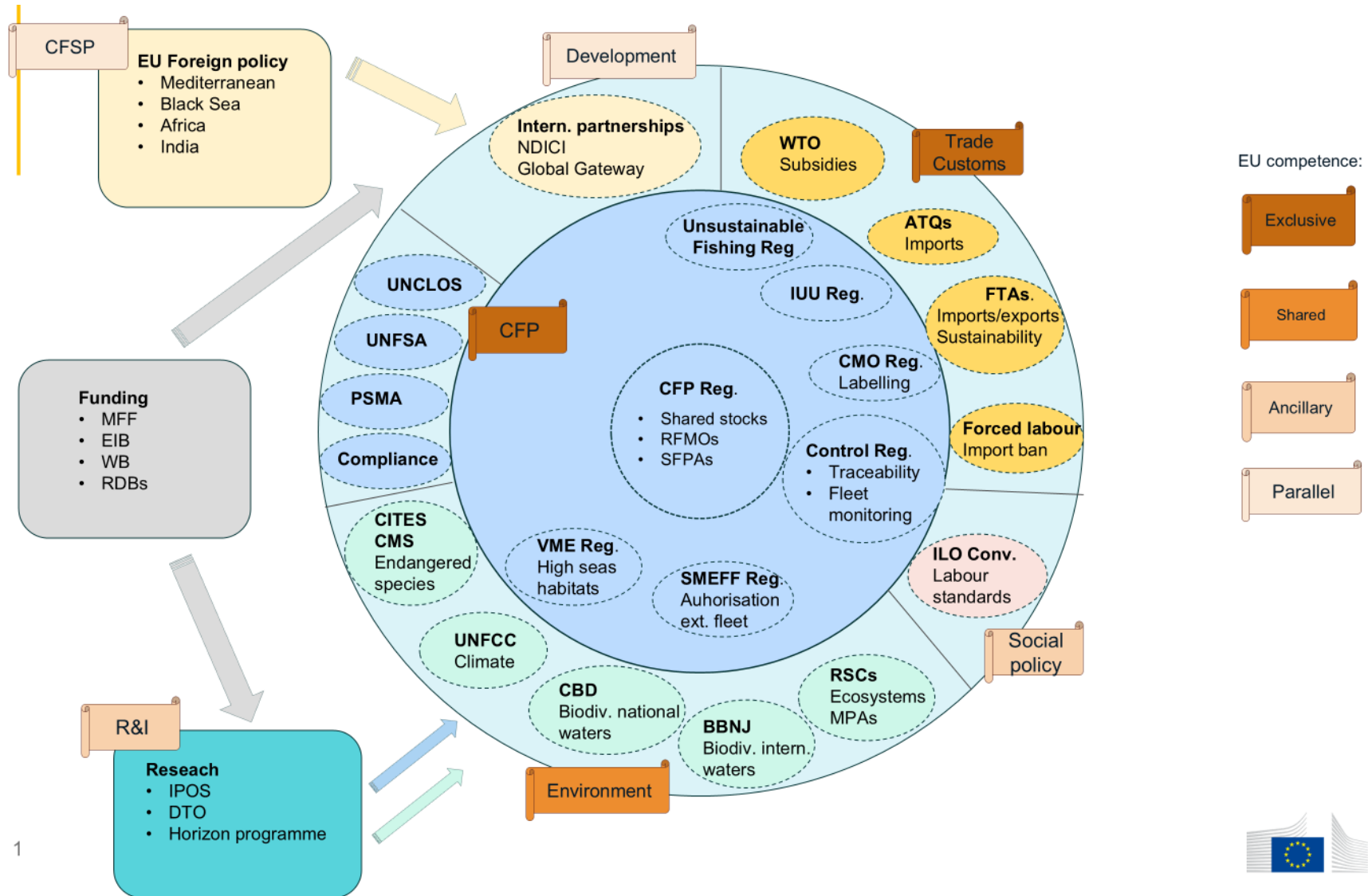
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What ?

- “A strategic approach to our fisheries external action,
 - ... including by ensuring that Europe retains its international leadership with its zero tolerance approach to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing”,
 - “as part of this, [to] work on a new generation of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements, ensuring they are in line with our wider regional strategies and priorities, most notably for Africa and the Indo-Pacific,
 - [and to] promote a coherent approach for sustainable fisheries in all multilateral for a and bilateral dialogues”.
- “Take action to ensure a level playing field and protect the European fisheries chain from unfair competition, notably on seafood products”
- “To develop a strategic approach to an EU ocean diplomacy”.



Possible topics to consider



Possible questions to review

Aim: combine a **set of EU instruments and policies** to strengthen **sustainability** of EU external fisheries – environmental, economic, social – and to promote enhanced global and regional **governance** and sustainable **value chains** → **How ?**

- How should **RFMOS** deal with the consequences of **climate change** ? how to support the implementation of the new **BBNJ** treaty ? what can fisheries action contribution to **endangered species**' protection.
- How to ensure that Europe retains its international leadership with its zero-tolerance approach to **IUU fishing** and promotes its updated fisheries **control** rules ?
- How to foster **labour** standards in the EU external fleets as well as in non-EU fleets ?
- How to build a more **sustainable value chain** through trade and marketing measures and sustainability of EU imports and exports of aquatic food ?
- What could be tailor-made **regional approaches**? In that context, how to ensure stability and predictability of access to **neighbouring waters** and what role could a new generation of **Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements** play in addressing these challenges ?



Ongoing

- Evaluation of CFP Regulation – Public consultation launched on 27.01. Includes :
 - Provisions on external fisheries management: RFMOs, SFPAs, shared stocks
 - CMO regulation – provisions on consumer information (incl. imports) → Ongoing study
- Several studies on:
 - Traceability of prepared and preserved products (incl. imports) – under revised Control regulation
 - Feed for aquaculture (incl. imports)
 - Impact Assessment on Autonomous trade quotas post-2026
- Revision of regulation on unsustainable fishing
- Digital catch certification scheme (no IUU imports) – as of 6 January 2026



Forthcoming

- Call for evidence
- Targeted stakeholders consultations
 - Member States expert groups: MTFAP, CFP, Maritime Policy
 - Advisory Councils
 - Stakeholders' event during Ocean Days (5 March)
 - poss. EP, EESC

