



DG MARE Report on evaluation of CFP: reflections on the External Dimension

LDAC Executive Committee – The Hague, 19 May 2026

Source: Press Release from MARE (30 April 2026)

EU maintains global leadership amid post-Brexit adjustments

- *The EU has played a leading role in promoting sustainable fisheries management globally and in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, through active participation in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations.*
- *Since the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU, the management of many stocks in the northern sea basins has shifted from an EU-only framework based on regionalisation to a shared-stock framework. The CFP Regulation provides the legal basis needed to operate in this new context.*

Source – MARE Staff Working Document

- Internationally, the EU's active building of strategic partnerships with key third countries through bilateral agreements, RFMOs and SFPAs, has contributed to maintaining access to non-EU waters, improving level playing field and shaping the legal and governance frameworks in international fisheries, including the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Member States acting independently would be very unlikely to achieve similar leverage.
- ***However, this has not compensated for the overall shortfall in supply due to the slow recovery of EU stocks. As a result, the EU is increasingly dependent on imports, especially the processing and fed aquaculture sectors that rely on imported raw materials and feed. Evidence indicates shortcomings in control, enforcement and compliance over the past decade: the revised Control Regulation is an important milestone on the path to better implementation.***

Source – MARE Staff Working Document

- A significant part of the implementation costs of the CFP Regulation is linked to the need to ensure control, data quality, and sustainability outcomes. Expanded monitoring, reporting, and enforcement requirements generate additional burden but they are connected to achieving more reliable data, better compliance, level-playing field and more sustainable stock management.
- ***Targeted EU funding co-financed the costs for control, data collection and fleet adjustment, limiting national budget pressures and duplication. Simplification, digitalisation, multiannual management plans and regional coordination also aim to reduce administrative burdens where effectively implemented.***
- Efficiency also depends strongly on how Member States implement the rules, with fragmented or uneven application reducing cost-effectiveness. Several efficiency concerns raised by stakeholders stem from secondary legislation, rather than the CFP Regulation itself.