

## EUROPEAN UNION

### Item 8. Supporting small-scale and artisanal fisheries

#### UNION POSITION

##### (On behalf of the EU and its Member States)

- I have the honor to speak on behalf of the EU and its Member States.
- The EU and its Member States are fully committed to implement the FAO voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries. The **EU Common Fisheries Policy** contains a **number of provisions designed to take on board the specificities of small-scale coastal fisheries**, including through dedicated financing.
- We are also committed to **implement the regional plan of action for small-scale fisheries** from the **General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean**. Many positive developments have taken place in this regard over the last two years and we will continue to assist the GFCM and third countries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea with the aim to strengthen their capacities in all fisheries related issues, including small-scale fisheries.
- The key role of small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers is at the heart of certain **EU programmes with third countries**.
- Since 2014, the EU has financed with **more than 200 Mio euros projects that secure and improve sustainable small-scale fisheries** in coastal developing countries and small island developing states (SIDS).
- Considering the importance of small-scale fisheries, the EU and its Member States look forward to **celebrating the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture** (IYAFA) in 2022.
- We can **agree on the lines of action of the Global action plan**. The IYAFA should allow focusing world attention on the role that small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers play in food security and nutrition, poverty eradication and sustainable use of natural resources, also **helping the sector to recover** from the adverse consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It is important to **promote a positive narrative** on small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, emphasising **sustainability and the fight against IUU fishing** and including elements such as i) the need to **bring consumers closer to their seafood source**; ii) the need to ensure **fair access to fishing rights**; and iii) the importance of activities that **impact the health of fishery resources**, and consequently, small-scale fishers.

- Attention should also be paid to the **concerns of artisanal and small-scale fishing communities** with regard to the **potential impacts of the development of competing extracting activities and other uses of the sea.**
- Finally, we believe that small-scale fisheries and aquaculture **could valuably be promoted in a series of coming events**, such as the UN Ocean Conference, the Our Ocean Conference, UN Food Systems Summit, the Global Conference on Aquaculture and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity.