EN

E-005087/2021

Answer given by Mr Sinkevičius

on behalf of the European Commission

(21.1.2022)

The Commission investigated several ways to address the unfortunate case of fishing vessel Mary Kate WD30. Since 2009, when the Commission was initially approached, extensive correspondence and meetings took place with the vessel’s owner, as well as with Irish Members of the European Parliament and members of the Irish Oireachtas, who represented on his behalf.

The Commission advised at the time to investigate potential EU contribution, such as financing of safety investments on board or granting of permanent cessation aid (decommissioning) under the European Fisheries Fund 2007-2013 (EFF) or the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2014-2020 (EMFF). However, the choice of measures and further selection of projects is a decision that can be taken only by the Irish authorities.

In general, all the above-mentioned correspondence in relation to EFF or EMFF has been copied to the Irish EFF/EMFF managing authority (i.e. Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine - Marine Programmes Division[[1]](#footnote-1)).

While having taken due note of the situation of the vessel’s owner, the Commission recalls the lack of EU jurisdiction in this case, as all the identified aspects related to it are under the national competences of the Member State.

1. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b4b81-european-maritime-and-fisheries-fund-2014-2020/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)