



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE.C.2/DB

Tero Mustonen
President Snowchange Cooperative
Finland
tero@lumi.fi

**Subject: Climate Change Impacts on Finnish Winter Seining Fishery
Reply to your letter of 9/1/2020 (our ref. Ares(2020)156507)**

Dear Mr Mustonen,

Thank you for your letter of 9 January 2020, which Commissioner Sinkevičius asked me to reply on his behalf.

I regret to read about the unfortunate fate that befell your fisheries and the income loss suffered from climate change consequences.

As you may be aware, the European Commission is taking climate action very seriously and recently launched a European Green Deal, aiming at making Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. As part of this Green Deal, the Commission will implement a wide range of initiatives to increase to adapt and mitigate climate change consequences, notably to increase clean energy, reduce pollution, maintain biodiversity and more. We strive to work towards a greener future, where natural seasonal cycles return to normal temperature ranges, and ice returns to your lakes. However, these initiatives will not result in immediate solutions and we understand that you need support now.

In the context of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), support may be available under the priority of Community-led Local Development (CLLD). Under CLLD, the EMFF can assist Fisheries Local Action Groups in mitigating effects of climate change and in diversifying their sources of income, thus making their businesses more resilient.

As the EMFF is implemented in shared management with the Member States, I kindly invite you to contact the Finnish Managing Authority for more information about this possibility at:

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Hallituskatu 3 A, Helsinki
PO Box 30, FI-00023 GOVERNMENT
Finland
Tel. +358 (0)295 16 001
Email: elinkeinokalatalous@mmm.fi

The Finnish Managing Authority may also be able to point you to other funding sources at national level, such as state aid.

I regret not to be able to provide more direct support, but let me assure you that the European Commission and Commissioner Sinkevičius in particular are very sensitive to the impact of climate change and examples like yours motivate us all to concentrate our work and deliver on the European Green Deal soonest.

Yours sincerely,



Bernhard FRIESS
Acting Director-General