

**Mr Joao Aguiar Machado**  
Director General  
Directorate General Maritime Affairs and  
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Date: 29 September 2016  
Our reference: 1617PAC/ 07  
Subject: Meeting request

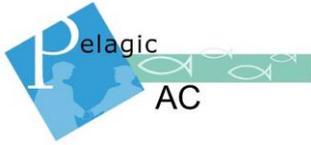
Dear Mr Machado,

Since the entering into force of the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) regionalisation has become a central process that should and could benefit from the knowledge and experience provided by the Advisory Councils (ACs). While some ACs managed to establish a close cooperation with the relevant regional groups, the experiences of the Pelagic AC have until now been very disappointing, despite enormous efforts undertaken by the Pelagic AC to foster a collaborative relationship with the regional groups.

These negative experiences range from the almost absence of a consultation process in the South Western Waters to the complete disregard of the consensus recommendations provided to the North Sea and North Western Waters regional groups. Even simple requests such as the implementation of the boarfish closures through a pelagic discard plan, as advised by the Commission and supported by ICES, have been dismissed by the North Western Waters regional group.

This negative approach taken by the regional groups undermines successes of the previous CFP which through the creation of the ACs acknowledged the valuable role stakeholders play in the policy process. Rather than building on the positive developments of the past ten years the regional groups as constituted under the new CFP are not actively engaging with the Pelagic AC in a meaningful way or creating an atmosphere of trust where we feel that our recommendations are considered seriously, let alone implemented.

We therefore kindly request the Commission in a role as a facilitator to arrange a meeting with the chairs of the High Level Groups of the North Sea, North Western Waters and South Western Waters groups and the Pelagic AC to discuss the concerns raised above. We fully understand that the role of the Commission in organizing such a meeting would be purely as a facilitator.



Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ian Gatt' with a small flourish at the end.

Ian Gatt  
Chairman

