



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES  
POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-ORDINATION  
COMMON FISHERIES POLICY AND AQUACULTURE

Brussels,  
MARE D3 Ares(2017)

Mr Jesper Raakjaer  
Chairman  
Pelagic Advisory Council  
Louis Braillelaan 80  
2719 EK Zoetermeer  
The Netherlands

**Subject: Setting up informal Regional Member States Group and Commission representation at PELAC meetings**

*Your reference: 1617PAC/33*

Dear Mr. Raakjaer,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 March 2017 regarding coordination with Member States High Level Groups on pelagic stocks within the framework of regionalization and Commission representation at the PELAC meetings.

Good collaboration between the Advisory Councils and Member States High Level Groups is indeed essential for regionalisation to work properly. This is why the consultation of the Advisory Councils is compulsory for Member States when preparing their joined recommendations. Whereas Member States have some margin of appreciation regarding the practical aspects of the process, it is essential to guarantee that the consultation of the Advisory Councils is meaningful and enables them to effectively benefit from your experience and knowledge. We have been informed that Member States High Level Groups discussed your request during one of their last meetings and they will get back to you with some concrete ideas on the way forward. In the meantime, we will make sure that your input is correctly channelled to the Member States, whenever requested.

Regarding Commission non participation to your meeting of 28 February 2017, we apologize, but as you correctly point out, this was due to unforeseen circumstances. I am pleased to confirm already that two colleagues from DG MARE will attend your upcoming Dublin meetings. They will liaise directly with the secretariat for the practicalities.

Yours sincerely,

Elisa ROLLER  
Head of Unit  
*(signed)*