

Mr Joao AGUIAR MACHADO

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Date: 19 June 2018
Our reference: 1718/PAC 135
Subject: Commission representation at PELAC meetings
Cc: Veronika Veits, Elisa Roller, Evangelia Georgitsi, Pascale Colson, Amalia de Diego de la Vega

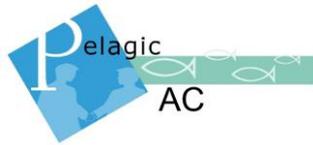
Dear Mr Aguiar Machado,

To our great disappointment we have been informed that the Commission will again not attend one of the key yearly PELAC meetings on 5 and 6 July 2018. Of the six PELAC meetings (Working Groups and ExCom) arranged so far in 2018, the Commission has attended none of them. The absence of the Commission during 2017 was also very high with only 8 attendances out of 13 meetings. It seems the attendance of the Commission at the PELAC meetings is steadily getting worse year on year and is a major cause of concern for the PELAC. The Commission's absence is especially problematic during Working Group meetings where your input and clarifications on a range of issues is an essential component to enable the PELAC to provide to best possible advice. Your absence has negatively affected the operations of the PELAC and has led to a decrease in efficiency and effectiveness.

We are deeply concerned that under these circumstances the advice provided by the PELAC will suffer as well as its excellent relationship with the Commission that existed prior to 2017. It seems to the PELAC that the support and commitment the Commission offered to the PelAC prior to 2017 no longer exists. Furthermore, the Commission is setting a negative example for the Member States who as you are already fully aware are reluctant to properly engage with the PELAC.

We therefore request that the Commission changes its mind and sends a representative to the next PELAC meeting on 5 and 6 July in Copenhagen and reinstates a good working relationship with the PELAC. The scientific advice in relation to the herring stocks will be discussed at this meeting and your input to these discussions is essential as the scientific advice for a number of these herring stocks for 2019 is particularly problematic, for example it now seems that ICES will not advice on the revised rebuilding plan submitted by the PELAC to you in March of this year for herring in area 6a,7bc. In addition, it would also be greatly appreciated if the Commission representative could present the





Commission's legislative proposals on the EMFF and the revision of the Control Regulation. Both are issues that are of paramount importance to the PELAC.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jesper Raakjær".

Jesper Raakjær
Chairman Pelagic AC

