



Mr Joao Aguiar Machado
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Date: 27 November 2017
Our reference: 1718/PAC 49
Subject: Commission response to PELAC stock recommendations

Dear Mr Machado,

Providing annual TAC advice for the stocks under the remit of the PELAC is, next to developing long-term management strategies, the core activity of the PELAC. Under the previous Directors General of DG MARE, the Commission always provided a detailed response as required under article 44.4 of Regulation (EU) No 1380-2013 to the PELAC's stock advice, explaining where it deviated from the PELAC's recommendations and why. This practice was highly valued by members of the PELAC since it increased transparency and provided guidance for future reference.

However, during the last couple of years the Commission has decided not to provide any response to the PELAC's stock advice. This is a very unfortunate development, leading to a decrease in transparency and best practices. This situation is further exacerbated by the increased absence of Commission representatives at PELAC meetings. In our opinion this lack of response is not in accordance with Article 44.4 of Regulation (EU) No 1380-2013 which states that *"The Commission and, where relevant, the Member State concerned shall reply within two months to any recommendation, suggestion or information received pursuant to paragraph 1."* We therefore urge the Commission to return to its prior practice and again provide a detailed response to the PELAC's annual stock advice.

We are looking forward to receiving your reply to this query.

Sincerely,

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

Jesper Raakjær
Chairman

