



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Director General

Brussels,
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Pelagic stocks Advisory Council
Mr. Jesper Raakjaer – Chairperson
c/o Productschap Vis.
Louis Braillelaan, 80
2719 EK, Zoetermeer
The Netherlands

Subject: Request of advice on post-2020 EU funding for fisheries and maritime sectors

Dear Mr. Raakjaer,

The Commission intends to present a proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework in May 2018. In this context, DG MARE has initiated its own reflection process as part of the spending review, which was launched with the Tallinn stakeholder conference "Beyond 2020" in October 2017.

As Advisory Councils, you are key partners in the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). In this respect, your views on EU funding for the fisheries and maritime sectors after 2020 would be much valuable for us. We would thus appreciate if you could provide us with an input on the issues raised in the annex.

Let me thank you in advance for your cooperation and collaboration. Your knowledge and experience is crucial for the development and implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy as well as for the incorporation of stakeholders' opinion in our next proposal on a funding tool post 2020.

I would be grateful for an answer by your Advisory Council by Monday 5th February 2018. Should you have any question on this letter and the issues raised, I invite you to take contact with Ms Pascale Colson, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273).

Yours sincerely,

João AGUIAR MACHADO

c.c.: Ms Veits, Clark, Roller

Annex: Questions on post-2020 EU funding for fisheries and maritime sectors

ANNEX: Questions on post-2020 EU funding for fisheries and maritime sectors

1. POLICY OBJECTIVES

The European Union has exclusive competence for the conservation of marine biological resources and can adopt provisions to achieve CFP objectives internally as well as externally. As far as the integrated maritime policy is concerned, challenges for growth and investment in blue economy as well as in international ocean governance are cross-sectoral and transnational in nature. The EU action is thus essential to create the required conditions for both policies.

In this respect, we would like you to answer the following questions:

- *What should be the priority areas of intervention?*
- *What should no longer be eligible for support?*

2. REGIONAL SOLUTIONS TO TACKLE REGIONAL CHALLENGES

The EMFF does not provide for a differentiated allocation of support on a geographical basis. Member States are thus free to activate or not certain measures, in line with the priorities set out in their OPs. Although in the current period there has been an effort to introduce a real intervention logic, a more results-oriented approach as well as a greater alignment with CFP objectives, the proliferation of measures available for EMFF support has lacked a targeted approach to support these objectives.

Over the past few years, it has become more and more evident that the challenges each EU sea basin and fishery are facing vary significantly. Therefore, more targeted solutions and investment are needed. One possibility is to have both public support and management measures adapted to the specificities of the different sea-basins and fisheries, in order to be able to properly address differences in context and reality, in line with the CFP regional approach. The starting point for such differentiated logic could be an analysis carried out for each sea basin, which would highlight common strengths and weaknesses in terms of biological and environmental situations in relation to the CFP objectives as well as the economic and social performance of each region.

In this respect, we would like you to answer the following questions:

- *What are the main challenges encountered by your sea basin?*
- *Which EMFF instruments should be adapted on a regional basis in order to tackle these challenges?*
- *What kind of flexibility should be granted to Member States demonstrating a good management of their fisheries?*
- *How can future funding be even more closely aligned with CFP implementation, for example fisheries management measures?*

3. SUPPORT FOR SMALL-SCALE COASTAL FISHERIES

According to the 2017 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet, the EU active small-scale coastal fleet (SSCF) totalled 47,545 vessels in 2015, representing 74% of EU active vessels. As an important part of the EU fleet, small-scale fisheries vessels currently enjoy preferential support through the EMFF. Nevertheless, the Stakeholders Conference in Tallinn highlighted three main difficulties faced by small-scale coastal fleet operators: lack of investment, lack of innovation, lack of quota.

In this respect, we would like you to answer the following questions:

- *How can EU public support tackle more efficiently these three challenges?*
- *Which kind of preferential financial support would be relevant for SSCF?*