



Ms Charlina Vitcheva
Director-General
European Commission - Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Josef II-straat 99
1000 Brussels

Dun Laoghaire, 22 June 2022

Dear Ms Vitcheva,

Subject: Notification to the Advisory Councils of relevant meetings

Since their establishment under the Common Fisheries Policy as far back as 2005, the Advisory Councils have grown not only in number, but also in reach and in coverage of thematic issues. The ACs currently represent 518 stakeholder organisations¹ from both the seafood industry and the OIG sectors in over 20 Member States.

At the beginning, the ACs addressed mainly topics directly related to the CFP, such as TACs and quotas, technical measures, control and compliance, and, of course, the Landing Obligation. However, in recent years it has become apparent that the marine space is become ever busier and that the AC stakeholders' interests have widened to include increasingly important topics such as the blue economy, climate change, Marine Spatial Planning and many more.

Aquaculture and fisheries, including their markets, are intrinsically linked with environmental and social issues, and the CFP recognised this in 2013 stating "The CFP should ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities contribute to long-term environmental, economic, and social sustainability. It should include rules that aim to ensure the traceability, security and quality of products marketed in the Union. Furthermore, the CFP should contribute to increased productivity, to a fair standard of living for the fisheries sector including small-scale fisheries, and to stable markets, and it should ensure the availability of food supplies and that they reach consumers at reasonable prices. The CFP should contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and should help to achieve the objectives set out therein."

¹ Number of member organisations per AC: BSAC (41), NSAC (25), PelAC (43), NWWAC (44), SWWAC (80), MAC (61), AAC (50), LDAC (52), CCRUP (61), MEDAC (46), BISAC (15)



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Recent years have seen the introduction of wide-ranging policies by the European Commission, for example the Green Deal and its related strategies. Europe's ambitious plans to lead the world to a greener future rely on stakeholder support and involvement, and the ACs are the ideal contact points to reach out to hundreds of stakeholders at the same time.

We greatly appreciate the support of DG MARE's services in holding Inter-AC meetings, joining the ACs' meetings for discussions and inviting ACs to relevant meetings. Unfortunately, it has become apparent that the invitation to meetings does not seem to extend into all parts of DG MARE with the result that the ACs have been left out of important meetings in the past, most recently the MARE/CINEA "Planning for the future of Europe's Marine Space – MSP Stakeholder Conference". In addition, we were taken by surprise at the very short notice for the 2022 Seminar on fisheries science for which we also did not receive any prior notification.

As Secretariats, we facilitate our member organisations by raising awareness regarding important topics and events which may impact fisheries and aquaculture operations directly. We understand that it is not easy to involve everyone all the time, however, we do believe that specifically events organised by MARE directly should always consider notification of the Advisory Councils.

We would be grateful if the Advisory Councils could be notified as part of the routine scheduling of MARE events, and, where possible, even reaching further to events that are relevant but organised by, for example, the following DGs: ENV, CLIMA, ENER, AGRI, SANTE or RTD.

We thank you for your continued cooperation and look forward to seeing you at one of our next events.

On behalf of the Secretariats of the Aquaculture AC, the Mediterranean AC, the North Sea AC and the Pelagic AC;

With best regards,

Mo Mathies
Executive Secretary

Cc: Ms Valérie Tankink
Ms Lena Andersson Pench
Ms Pascale Colson



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