



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE.C5/JS/ac

Subject: EU reaction to unilateral decisions from Norway and Faroe Islands on quota for the Northeast Atlantic mackerel and consequent severe risk of overfishing

Dear Mr Jesper Raakjær,

I am writing in response to your letter of 23 August 2022, in which you share your views and concerns about unilaterally set quotas for mackerel by Faroes Islands and Norway. I apologise for the delay in the response.

I want to assure you that we are also deeply concerned about the current level of the sum of the unilateral quotas for mackerel. Despite the fact that last year an agreement on TAC for mackerel was reached in line with ICES advice, the discussions regarding a sharing arrangement have not finished.

Last year, all the coastal States agreed to prioritise discussions on sharing arrangements for mackerel, aiming to conclude them by the end of March 2023. In these discussions, the EU takes the sustainability of our fisheries very seriously. The EU position is based on the following well-established principles: the adherence to scientific advice, the finding of viable solutions to support decisions on quota allocation among parties, and the implementation of Long-Term Management Strategies for these fisheries.

Let me assure you that the EU remains committed to exploring all possible avenues to find a comprehensive sharing agreement that includes all parties in the best interest of the long-term sustainability of mackerel.

I understand that the matter will be discussed next week at the next PELAC meeting, to which my services will attend. Once more, thank you for sharing your concerns regarding mackerel. We continue to rely on close cooperation with all stakeholders.

Yours faithfully,

Charlina VITCHEVA

Mr Jesper Raakjær
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Electronically signed on 09/05/2022 15:22 (UTC+01) by 13220950483 with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121

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