

Mr Jérôme Broche

Head of Unit D4 – Fisheries Control and Inspections
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1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

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PelAC reference: 2425PAC10

Subject: Follow up regarding the implementation of the revised control regulation

Dear Mr. Jérôme Broche,

The Pelagic Advisory Council (PelAC) would like to congratulate you on your appointment as head of unit D4, in charge of Fisheries Control and Inspections.

The PelAC would like to follow up with you regarding the implementation of the revised control regulation. This important piece of legislation will impact the fishing sector in the coming years. The elements included in the regulation and their implementation will be key for pelagic fishers. Implementation will primarily take place through delegated and implementing acts drafted by the Commission in consultation with the co-legislators. Considering the process of the recently approved implementing act Regulation (EU) 2024/1474 where consultations with the advisory councils were limited, the PelAC calls your attention to the importance of ensuring adequate inclusion in future processes.

Although we acknowledge that broader discussions may occur in the context of inter AC meetings, we would like to bring to your attention the importance of consulting specific ACs in a more dedicated way on issues of relevance to the individual ACs and the fisheries they cover. For example, the PelAC and the NWWAC have carried out an in-depth exercise identifying joint elements of the revised regulation that need to be addressed as well as specific issues and potential solutions.

The implementation of the control regulation follows a sea-basin approach. Therefore, regional ACs have suggested regional workshops concentrating on specific issues relating to the relevant sea basin. However, the case of the PelAC is somewhat unique, as a regional approach is insufficient to encompass the diversity and the broad reach of the pelagic fleet. Keeping this in mind, the PelAC would like to request the organisation of a pelagic-specific workshop open to pelagic representatives from across the EU, including the NE Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean.





We would also like to emphasize the importance of including Advisory Councils in other implementations fora. This includes the regional control expert groups of the Member States and meetings of EFCA. For example, early in 2024, the PelAC organised a joint workshop with EFCA on the compliance of the Pelagic fleet with the landing obligation. We would suggest a similar workshop could be organised by the PelAC on the implementation of the Control Regulation.

The implementation of the Control regulation must also consider the international context of pelagic fisheries. Many stocks that the EU pelagic fleets target are also fished by fleets from third countries. Similarly, the EU Pelagic fleet is dependent on access to the waters of non-EU countries, with their own control provisions. Seeking coordination with the governments and control authorities from Nordic nations, United Kingdom and others will be key to a successful implementation of these provisions and ensuring a level playing field.

The PelAC looks forward to setting a date for a pelagic-specific discussion with your team.

Yours sincerely,

Esben Sverdrup-Jensen
Chair Pelagic Advisory Council

