



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Fisheries Policy Mediterranean and Black Sea

Brussels
MARE.D.3/ER

Mr Guus Pastoor
Chair
Market Advisory Council
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Subject: Annual report on the implementation in 2019 of the landing obligation

Dear Mr Pastoor,

Regulation (EU) No 2015/812, known as the Omnibus Regulation, introduced an obligation for the Commission to report annually on the implementation of the landing obligation on the basis of information transmitted by Member States, the Advisory Councils and other relevant sources to the Commission.

The Commission submitted reports to the European Parliament and the Council every June since 2016 in its annual Communication on the State of Play of the Common Fisheries Policy¹ and Consultation on the Fishing Opportunities. These reports covered the implementation of the landing obligation of the year prior to the report².

In line with Article 9(c) of the Omnibus Regulation, amending Article 15 of the Common Fisheries Policy, the annual reports should include the following elements:

- steps taken by Member States and producer organisations to comply with the landing obligation;
- steps taken by Member States regarding control of compliance with the landing obligation;

¹ Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC

² The latest Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, COM/2019/274 final and Commission Staff Working Document SWD/2019/205 final, covering implementation of the landing obligation of 2018.

- information on the socioeconomic impact of the landing obligation;
- information on the effect of the landing obligation on safety on board fishing vessels;
- information on the use and outlets of catches below the minimum conservation reference size of a species subject to the landing obligation;
- information on port infrastructures and of vessels' fitting with regard to the landing obligation;
- for each fishery concerned, information on the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the landing obligation and recommendations to address them.

To improve reporting and facilitate the assessment of the implementation of the landing obligation, the Commission prepared a questionnaire in 2016 for Member States to complete (see annex). The completion of this questionnaire was highly recommended and the majority of Member States indeed voluntarily completed it. This has significantly facilitated the drafting of the Commission report and improved the quality of the information provided. Therefore, it was seen relevant by all stakeholders to continue with the questionnaire.

However, the overview provided by the Scientific and Technical Committee on Fisheries (STECF) in its 60th plenary meeting report show minor changes in information provided or no submission at all throughout 2016 - 2018. The STECF concluded that this decline in the number of respondent countries has devalued the combined information.

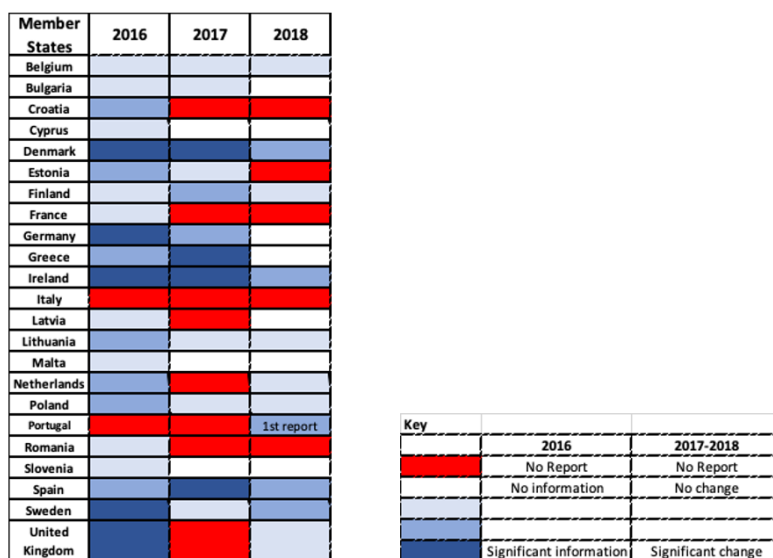


Figure 1 STECF (PLEN-19-01) Extent to which reports have been submitted and changed by Member States 2016 - 2018

The Commission report in 2020 will cover the implementation of the landing obligation in 2019 – the year it fully entered into force. Against this background, and to be able to report comprehensively on the implementation, it would be of utmost importance that every Member State fills in the enclosed questionnaire as comprehensively as possible or update the information submitted last year, whenever appropriate. We welcome the

increasing number of valuable responses each year of the Advisory Councils and other stakeholders. I would like to encourage them to provide their (updated) response on the themes covered in the enclosed questionnaire as well this year.

To give enough time to analyse the information and draft the final report on time, I would appreciate receiving your contributions by **17 February 2020**.

Yours sincerely,

Veronika VEITS
Acting Director

Enclosure: Voluntary questionnaire on the implementation of the landing obligation

c.c.: AC secretariat