



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels  
MARE-D3/MLD

**TO THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE  
AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
BALTIC SEA ADVISORY COUNCIL  
BLACK SEA ADVISORY COUNCIL  
LONG DISTANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MARKET ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEDITERRANEAN SEA ADVISORY COUNCIL  
NORTH SEA ADVISORY COUNCIL  
NORTH WESTERN WATERS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
OUTERMOST REGIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
PELAGIC ADVISORY COUNCIL  
SOUTH WESTERN WATERS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Dear chairs of the Advisory Councils,

The joint Advisory Councils (ACs) meeting held on 18 January 2021 offered us a great opportunity to discuss the functioning of the ACs and think collectively of potential paths for improvement. I wish to thank you personally for the presentations and many valuable ideas you brought to the discussion. The whole DG and I are and will stay committed to ensuring that ACs fully play their role as comprehensive stakeholder consultation bodies under the Common Fisheries Policy. In that light, I was really happy with the outcome of the meeting and very much appreciated your committed, positive and transparent approach to overcoming the challenges faced. This constructive attitude from all actors involved and upheld efforts to increase the mutual understanding of the various interests are essential to ensure effective working of the ACs. Let me express to you my gratitude for that.

You will find enclosed to this letter the minutes from the inter-AC meeting, as well as the presentations given by the speakers. Please make sure to send your comments, if any, to [MARE-D3@ec.europa.eu](mailto:MARE-D3@ec.europa.eu) or Pascale Colson ([pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu](mailto:pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu)) by Wednesday 3 February 2021.

Building on the outcomes of this meeting, DG MARE will continue its work to identify and implement specific follow-up actions to improve the functioning of the ACs, on which we will keep you updated. One of the main actions is evidently to keep promoting the role of the ACs and I can assure you that this is something we are already doing and will continue to do. Some of the actions discussed would require an amendment of the delegated act currently in place. Further analysis of possible changes are ongoing and it is

our intention to come back to the ACs and the Member States with our proposals as soon as possible.

I believe that the format of the Inter-ACs meetings is really useful and have asked my services to organise such meetings at more regular occasions as a way to discuss important files and developments. As announced by Ms. Andersson Pench, another inter-ACs meeting will be convened in April. We are also looking at the options and timings for having a specific meeting regarding the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement. We will make sure to come back to you shortly with further information on these next steps.

Please let me thank all of you for your efforts and rest assured of DG MARE's commitment to following-up carefully on this very important file.

Looking forward to our future exchanges and fruitful cooperation,

Yours faithfully,

Charlina VITCHEVA

Enclosure: Minutes Inter-AC meeting 18.01.2020  
Presentations