



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Director-General

Brussels,
MARE.D3/PCO

Mr Richard Flynn
Rue de la Science, 10
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Belgium

Subject: Recommendation from the Aquaculture Advisory Council on Delegated and Implementing Acts regarding the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases ("Animal Health Law")

Your reference: letter of 31/5/2017 – Ares (2017)2741468

Dear Mr Flynn,

Thank you for the AAC Recommendation on "Delegated and Implementing Acts regarding the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429" ("Animal Health Law")¹.

DG SANTE, the responsible DG for the mentioned Regulation, has already provided initial feedback to your recommendation at the meeting of the AAC Working Group on Finfish (WG1) of 22 June 2017. The recommendation will be further taken into account in the elaboration of the legislative acts in question.

At this stage, we would like to confirm that the Commission intends to pursue the objectives of simplification, flexibility, risk assessment and analysis and proportionality of the measures, which are also specifically outlined in the AAC Recommendation.

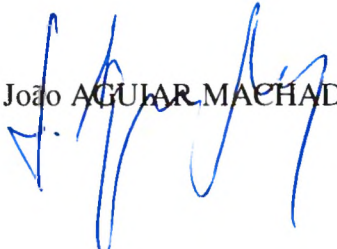
With regard to the listing of animal diseases, the Commission is running a systematic assessment of all relevant diseases for the purpose of their listing, with the support of EFSA and EU Reference Laboratories. More information about the outcomes of this assessment will be made available by the end of this year and in the beginning of 2018.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law') (Text with EEA relevance), OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1

The Commission understands the concerns expressed in the AAC Recommendation, and is aware of the specificities of some sectors, such as molluscs farming. We understand that some measures from the existing legislation may be difficult to implement; if this should prove necessary, we are of course ready to consider measures to correct and improve those provisions. However, operators also have a key role to play to reduce the spread of animal disease, as they alone can improve current operating practices and apply stricter biosecurity and other relevant measures. The Commission expects all operators to contribute to this effort.

I thank you for your continued interest and constructive input. If you have any question on this reply, you can contact Ms Pascale COLSON, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.62.73).

Yours sincerely,


João AGUIAR MACHADO