



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
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Ms.Cécile Fouquet
AAC Secretariat
Executive Secretary
cecile.fouquet@aac-europe.org

**Subject: Recommendation on the proposal for a delegated act to amend
Annex III to Regulation 853/2004 – *Norovirus* surveillance**

Dear Ms. Fouquet,

Thank you for your letter regarding the AAC recommendation supplementing that of November 2019 with regard to *norovirus* surveillance in the framework of the Commission draft delegated act to amend Annex III to Regulation 853/2004.

From very preliminary discussions with Member States' experts which are held under the lead of my Commission colleagues of the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), there appears to be a broad support on the need to take measures on *norovirus* in live bivalve molluscs, in line with the recommendation of EFSA, though the nature of the measures is not yet fixed.

Whatever the measures retained, there is no doubt, as you suggest in the report, that the contamination of waters should be avoided from the start, notably through improved waste water treatment and disposal of waste water treatment plants' effluents in order to limit the contamination of molluscs' harvesting areas. This will however take time and there is a need to respond more rapidly to acute situations such as the outbreak of the end of 2019.

The report prepared by the AAC offers interesting ideas that will be shared with Member States' experts to feed further discussions. I would invite you to liaise with Mr Caricato (paolo.caricato@ec.europa.eu) in DG SANTE, should you require further clarifications on the next steps.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA