



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE-D3/PCO Ares (2021)

Subject: AAC contribution on the delegated act on the functioning of the Advisory Councils (AAC 2021-12)

Dear Mr. Ojeda,

Many thanks for your comments on the upcoming-delegated act on the functioning of the Advisory Councils (ACs). We are happy to see that the AAC welcomes most of the provisions included in the proposal. We have carefully examined your comments, to which you will find below our reactions.

- 1) Inclusion of small scale aquaculture farms in parallel to small scale fleet (SSF) in the composition of the ACs' General Assembly: we have been examining this request and finally decided not to retain it given the uncertainty about what are small-scale aquaculture farms. In addition, the reference to SSF in the structure of the General Assembly of the Advisory Councils is attributable to the fact that they represent the biggest part of the fleet in some EU waters, which is not the case of small-scale aquaculture farms. In order to better understand what small-scale aquaculture farms are and what are their own specificities, instead of mentioning them in the delegated act on the functioning of the ACs, we would advise the AAC to send a recommendation to the Commission and Member States on small-scale aquaculture farms and the issues they encounter.
- 2) Thank you for your comment on recital 7, which we have taken on board and modified "organisations having indirect economic interests" by "suppliers to", as suggested.
- 3) On Article 1 (e) of the annex, we have also retained your proposal and now mention "animal health and welfare" instead of "animal welfare" as proposed.
- 4) On the second paragraph of the Annex, we have modified the first sentence as suggested and replaced "an organisation shall be classified other interest group *when it is independent from economic interests linked to the sectors of commercial fishing, aquaculture, processing, marketing, distribution or retail of seafood*" by "*when it does not meet any of the criteria laid down in paragraph 1*"

Mr. Javier Ojeda
Chairman of the AAC
ojeda@apromar.es
Rue de la Science, 10
B – 1000 Brussels
Belgium

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 22991111
Office: J-99 05/014 - Tel. direct line +32 229-50483

charlina.vitcheva@ec.europa.eu

Let me thank you for your comments, a majority of which were taken into account. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Pascale COLSON, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (Pascale.COLSON@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.62.73). Let me finish by announcing that the delegated act on the functioning of the ACs was adopted by the Commission on 8 December 2021. It is currently under scrutiny by the EP and the Council, and should enter into force in the first Quarter of 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

c.c.: Stylianos Filopoulos stylianos.filopoulos@aac-europe.org