



Consultation on the improvements to the  
functioning of Advisory Councils  
AAC Contribution to the proposal of new  
delegated act

**August 2021 (AAC 2021-12)**



The European Commission (EC) is revising the delegated act laying down detailed rules on the functioning of Advisory Councils (ACs). A first delegated regulation was adopted in 2015 (2015/242) and modified in 2017 (2017/1575). Following regular exchanges with the ACs Chairs and secretariats, the Commission has drafted a new proposal aiming at further improving the functioning of ACs.

The Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC) welcomes the Commission's willingness to improve the functioning of ACs and most of the provisions included in the proposal. Indeed, they tackled the concerns expressed in the past about the functioning of the AAC. The AAC members believe that this new piece of regulation will allow them to focus their work on their primary objective: providing timely and quality recommendations to the EC.

The AAC members would like to share some comments to the proposed text:

- **Consideration of small-scale aquaculture farms representatives:**

The AAC members request that wherever in the DA there is a reference to "small scale fleets" for capture fisheries the following text should be included "...and small-scale aquaculture farms".

- **On Recital 7:**

- Recital 7 corresponds to one of the AAC's suggestions. The EC added "indirect interest" and gave two examples but "indirect" is not really defined. This could lead to future discussions/confusions (consumers, for instance, could be considered as having an indirect interest by the simple consumption of aquaculture products). "Indirect interest" should be clearly defined.

The AAC suggests to the EC to replace "In addition, **organisations having indirect economic interests in the above-mentioned sectors**, such as fishing net manufacturers or icemakers, should also be classified as 'sector organisations'" with "In addition, **suppliers to the above-mentioned sectors**, such as fishing net manufacturers or icemakers, should also be classified as 'sector organisations'".

- **On Article 1 of the new Annex:**

The AAC members request a clarification on what type of 'health' is meant, human or animal. Although 'animal welfare' sometimes comprises 'animal health' it is not always the case and regulations must avoid ambiguities that can lead to misinterpretations. For example, the EC in its communication on the Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030 separates animal health from animal welfare and discusses them separately.

The AAC proposes the following amendment in addition:

(e) provided that one of the criteria listed in point 1(a) to 1(d) is met, the organisation is active in the field of environment, consumers and human rights, public health, promotion of equality, animal health or animal welfare.

- **On Article 2 of the new Annex:**

For the sake of clarity, the AAC members think that it would be more appropriate to set the criteria for the classification as “other interest group” in par. 2 by exclusion of eligibility criteria for the classification as “sector organisation”.

The AAC members therefore propose the following wording for the first part of par. 2:

“2. An organisation shall be classified ‘other interest group’ when it **does not meet any of the criteria laid down in par. 1 of the present annex** ~~is independent from economic interests linked to the sectors of commercial fishing, aquaculture, processing, marketing, distribution or retail of seafood and:~~ “

The rest of point 2 may remain in the text (meaning keeping letters (a) and (b)).



**Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC)**

Rue de l'Industrie 11, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 (0) 2 720 00 73

E-mail: [secretariat@aac-europe.org](mailto:secretariat@aac-europe.org)

Twitter: @aac\_europe

[www.aac-europe.org](http://www.aac-europe.org)