



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/A2/LDC (2021)

Subject: AAC recommendation on the EU taxonomy regulation and EU aquaculture

Dear Mr. Ojeda,

I would like to thank the Aquaculture Advisory Council for the recommendation on the EU taxonomy Regulation and EU aquaculture, from 16th June 2021. I am pleased to see the support from the AAC to the objective of guiding investment decisions towards environmentally sustainable economic activities. I agree that aquaculture can be part of those activities, contribute to the production of food, feed with a lower carbon and environmental footprint than other production methods if well managed, and even offer environmental services. These benefits should be recognised and recognisable to investors.

This is why the Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030 adopted on 12 May¹ have a special focus on the “environmental performance“ of the EU aquaculture sector. As you know, among the actions recommended by this Communication, the Commission proposed to develop a guidance document on environmental performance in the aquaculture sector covering a broad range of issues, including the identification of environmental indicators. This is already a strong signal of the commitment to make aquaculture contribute to environmental objectives. This work can also be a good basis for future work on technical screening criteria for aquaculture in the EU taxonomy.

My services are looking forward to collaborating with the AAC in ensuring the implementation of these and other aspects of the new strategic guidelines for EU aquaculture.

With regard to your concerns on the criteria to include economic activities in the EU Taxonomy, I would like to note that economic activities that are not yet included in the

¹ See COM(2021) 236 final and SWD(2021) 102 final on Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030

{

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

EU Taxonomy Delegated Acts should not be considered necessarily environmentally harmful or unsustainable. Delegated acts will be living documents that will be complemented over time and updated as necessary.

Stakeholders will have an opportunity to notify the Platform on Sustainable Finance about activities they believe should be covered in the EU Taxonomy. Gradually, additional sectors will be considered and additional activities will be included.

The Platform on Sustainable Finance will soon outline how it intends to receive and process such requests. It will then be possible to submit formally requests through a dedicated process on the [Platform's website](#). We will keep you informed on these developments.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further question on this reply, please contact Ms Pascale COLSON, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (Pascale.COLSON@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.62.73), who will forward it to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

c.c.: Cécile Fouquet cecile.fouquet@aac-europe.org