



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/A2/BVT(2022)

Subject: AAC recommendation for the setting up of a fish welfare centre

Dear Mr. Ojeda,

I would like to thank you for your mail of 11th March 2022 including the “*Recommendation for the setting up of a fish welfare centre.*”

Your recommendation rightly points out that Articles 95 and 96 of the Official Controls Regulation¹ establish the process of designation, the responsibilities and the tasks of the EU reference centres on animal welfare and that the Commission has so far set up three EU Reference Centres on Animal Welfare, notably for (1) pigs, (2) poultry and other small farmed animals and (3) ruminants and equines.

As you know, the “*Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030*”² have identified welfare of farmed fish as a key area for further work and recommended actions for the Commission and the Member States in this area in particular on indicators, good practices and research. In addition, the Inception Impact Assessment on the revision of the EU animal welfare legislation includes options related to the welfare of farmed fish.

In this context, the Commission may consider the possibility of establishing in the future an EU Reference Centre on animal welfare for aquatic animals.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

² COM(2021)236 final.

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I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. 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), who will forward it to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

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