



**Brian Thomsen**

Chair

Aquaculture Advisory Council

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**Mr Costas Kadis**

Commissioner-designate for Fisheries and Oceans

Brussels, 18 October 2024

## **Subject: Meeting request and introduction**

Dear Commissioner-designate,

On behalf of the **Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC)**, I would like to present our sincere congratulations on your nomination as candidate for Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans. The AAC is a DG MARE-funded body established under the Common Fisheries Policy to provide advice. Our mission is to **facilitate the dialogue among all EU aquaculture stakeholders** (sector representatives and other interested parties) and build **consensus-based recommendations** to the European Commission and Member States on policies and legislation affecting them, with the objective of developing sustainable aquaculture in the European Union<sup>1</sup>.

**The AAC and its members would like to convey their deep satisfaction with the dedication of the DG MARE's staff composing the Aquaculture Team.** Despite aquaculture not being an exclusive EU competence, the aquaculture team covers all the aspects of our complex activity and all the EU countries. In view of their impressive workload and given the challenges ahead and the EU's ambitious goals in developing aquaculture, **the AAC believes that the Aquaculture Team will necessarily need to be reinforced within DG MARE in the near future.**

Indeed, in view of the stagnation of the volume of EU aquaculture production despite EU strategies set over twenty years<sup>2</sup>, **the EU aquaculture stakeholders have called for the creation of an EU Aquaculture Policy Reform<sup>3&4</sup>.** The AAC is convinced that an EU

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<sup>1</sup> CFP Regulation 1380/2013, Article 2

« 1. The CFP shall ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities are environmentally sustainable in the long-term and are managed in a way that is consistent with the objectives of achieving economic, social and employment benefits, and of contributing to the availability of food supplies. »

<sup>2</sup> EU Aquaculture policy, European Court of Auditors, 2023

<sup>3</sup> [AAC Framework Recommendation for an Aquaculture Policy Reform, February 2024](#)

<sup>4</sup> [AAC Recommendation for an Aquaculture Policy Reform, July 2024](#)



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Aquaculture Sustainability Regulation, a new Common Market Organisation regulation for aquaculture products, a new legal act on a Performance and Evaluation Framework and an increased coherence between the aquaculture policy objectives and EU environmental policy **could finally help to unlock the potential of aquaculture** as a sustainable provider of jobs and proteins in Europe.

**We would be delighted to present our proposals to you in person at your earliest convenience** and we look forward to maintaining an open and transparent line of communication in the future.

With my best regards,

**Brian Thomsen**

**Chair  
Aquaculture Advisory Council**

