

Director-General Mr João Aguiar Machado

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Rue Joseph II 99, 1000
Brussels, Belgium

Brussels, 16 February 2018

Subject: Review of the EU Fisheries Control System

Dear Mr Aguiar Machado,

On behalf of the MAC I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the issues raised in your consultation exercise in relation to possible changes to the EU fisheries Control Regulation (NO 1224/2009).

As you will be aware, the MAC had not been formally established in time to participate in any of the earlier stages of this work and was therefore left with an extremely limited time frame in which to formulate a consensus view.

You will also be aware of the unique nature of the MAC, as compared to other Advisory Councils, in that it is a truly horizontal body bringing together a wide range of actors and stakeholders from across the supply chain – and beyond.

That, combined with the learning curve we are still on in terms of our procedures and working methods, has regrettably precluded us from being able to deliver an Opinion within your (already extended) deadline.

I would however like to emphasise that the issues raised in this consultation are of great relevance and importance to our members and have stimulated much debate – which is partly why we have not been able to reach clear conclusions at this point.

We therefore wish to remain engaged in the process as you take this work forward and would be happy to contribute views at a subsequent stage.

We also greatly value the time and input from your services in our work as a whole – and would not want this episode to prejudice that in any way. On the contrary, the earlier we can discuss issues with you, the better able we will be to respond with formal advice when required.

I remain at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,



Guus Pastoor
Chair of the Market Advisory Council

Cc:
Ms Pascale Colson
Ms Amalia de Diego y Vega