



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Fisheries Policy Mediterranean and Black Sea

Brussels
MARE.D3 –E1/PCO-RG/Ares(2021)

To all ACs Chairs and secretaries

Subject: Signature of grant agreements between the Commission and Advisory Councils in 2021

Dear Advisory Councils,

2021 is the beginning of a new financing period, which funds, including those related to Advisory Councils, will be covered by the EMFAF (European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund) Regulation¹. This regulation was subject to a consolidated agreement between the European Parliament and the Council in last December, but is still not formally adopted, which means that the signature of financial grants to the ACs are to be postponed by a few months.

This will of course affect only the ACs, which start their financial exercise at the beginning of the year². To make it possible for the ACs to function properly despite the late adoption of the EMFAF, we have included a specific provision in the EMFAF providing for an exceptional retroactivity of expenditure from 1st January 2021 for the operating grants to Advisory Councils. However, **the eligibility will start from the moment we receive a formal application**. Therefore, we encourage all of you to do as if the EMFAF had already entered into force, and to apply in conformity with the starting date of your exercise. Thanks to the exceptional retroactivity rule for the ACs in 2021, you can go on with your activity and expenditure. We will start examining the applications as soon as we receive them. Only the signature of grant agreements will be delayed to around mid-2021, when the EMFAF and the financing decision enabling grants to Advisory Councils are adopted.

As already announced in 2020, we will keep in 2021 the same amounts as in 2020, which are reminded here below.

¹ See Art. 40 © of the consolidated agreement

² MEDAC, BISAC, BSAC, SWWAC, LDAC

Advisory Council	2021 financial grant amount
Aquaculture AC	300.000
Baltic Sea AC	300.000
Black Sea AC	200.000
CC RUP	320.000
Long Distance AC	350.000
Market AC	300.000
MEDAC	385.000
North Sea AC	300.000
North Western Waters AC	330.000
Pelagics AC	310.000
South Western Waters AC	335.000

In addition, as we noted in last December that some Advisory Councils wrote directly to the FAO³, I take the opportunity of this letter to remind all of you that Advisory Councils can write directly only to the Commission and Member States. In case you would like to send recommendations to other organisations such as the EFCA, FAO, RFMOs or other international organisations in the context of your activities, please send these recommendations to us, and we will deal with them directly.

Let me thank you for your commitment, in particular during the last inter-ACs meeting, which was highly appreciated. I look forward to our continued fruitful cooperation and invite you to take contact with Ms Pascale Colson (Pascale.Colson@ec.europa.eu; + 32 2 29 56273) should you have any questions on this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Lena ANDERSSON PENCH
Director

³ This happened in the context of discussion on social sustainability in the fisheries value chain