



Market Advisory Council

## Inter-ACs Meeting 2019 Notes

Friday 8 November 2019

Albert Borschette Conference Centre, Room 4D  
Rue Froissart, 36 – 1040 Brussels (Métro Schuman)

### OPENING REMARKS – VERONIKA VEITS, DIRECTOR MARE-B, INTERNATIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Director Veronika Veits underscored that it is essential for all stakeholders to continue to be involved in the Advisory Councils. Ms Veits recommended that other ACs follow the example of the LDAC's strategic report. The Director highlighted some key challenges for the sector. 2020 MSY target: the full implementation of the landing obligation is a challenge. The Commission would like engagement in pilot projects to use remote electronic monitoring. EMFF: it is important to avoid delays in the new programming period.

### FUNCTIONING OF ACS : HOW TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE?

#### LDAC Performance review (A. Rodriguez, LDAC)

- [https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2\\_1-LDAC-Presentation-Performance-Review\\_InterAC\\_8Nov2019.pdf](https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2_1-LDAC-Presentation-Performance-Review_InterAC_8Nov2019.pdf)

#### Application of consensus rule and reflection of minority opinion (I. Lopez, LDAC)

I. Lopes, LDAC, emphasised that equal importance should be provided to the majority and minority opinions. Minority opinions should be included in the text.

#### Representation of Small-Scale Fisheries (G. Buonfiglio, MEDAC)

- [https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2\\_3-MEDAC\\_SSF\\_Voice\\_compressed.pdf](https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2_3-MEDAC_SSF_Voice_compressed.pdf)

#### Representation of Other Interest Groups (JC Vandewelde, from Pew)

- [https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2\\_4-WWF\\_Pew\\_AC\\_good\\_practices\\_CFP\\_implementation\\_2.pdf](https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2_4-WWF_Pew_AC_good_practices_CFP_implementation_2.pdf)

JC Vandewelde, Pew, emphasised that there are too few NGO representatives in Advisory Councils and that NGO representatives cannot spend enough time on these. Mr Vandewelde asked the Commission to make clear what ACs are and to monitor their functioning more. The agenda is mainly driven by the industry and the Other Interest Groups spent a lot of time





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and energy trying to control the quality of the advice. There should be shared ownership of the agenda and constructive drafting in line with the CFP. There are failures in reflecting minority positions and shortcomings partiality of AC Secretariats. The problems are more connected to the “traditional ACs” than the “thematic ACs”.

#### The role of the Chair (Niels Wiechmann, ex-Chair of the NSAC)

- [https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2\\_5-Role-of-the-Chair-NWiechmann.pdf](https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2_5-Role-of-the-Chair-NWiechmann.pdf)

Ensuring high quality recommendations and their delivery in due time (Sean O’Donoghue, PELAC and E. Sverdrup-Jensen, BSAC).

- [https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2\\_6-Presentation-PELAC-ODonoghue-InterACv3.pdf](https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2_6-Presentation-PELAC-ODonoghue-InterACv3.pdf)
- [https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2\\_7-BSACPPInterAC081119.pdf](https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2_7-BSACPPInterAC081119.pdf)

#### FUNCTIONING OF ACS : HOW TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE?

Developing the work programme (I. Kingma, NSAC)

- [https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2\\_8-InterAC-Nov2019-Kingma.pdf](https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2_8-InterAC-Nov2019-Kingma.pdf)

**The Commission** mentioned that there are still problems with programmes. Some are poorly written and overly ambitious, not sufficiently prioritised, not focused on the key issues. Some are excellent. Work programmes are essential and have financial implications. The Commission called on the ACs to improve the quality of their work programmes.

Communicating on behalf of ACs (E. Brouckaert, NWWAC)

- [https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2\\_9-NWWAC Communication Inter-ACs Nov-2019.pdf](https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2_9-NWWAC Communication Inter-ACs Nov-2019.pdf)

In relation to the ACs engagement with the European Parliament, **the Commission** highlighted that the CFP is very clear that the role of the Advisory Councils is to provide recommendations to the Commission and Member States. It is not about talking to the Parliament, talking to individual MEPs or lobbying. Nevertheless, the EP is interested in the ACs’ work and the Commission does not want the ACs to feel like they cannot have any contact with the EP. ACs should not be seen as lobbyist and single issue bodies. It is important to share the advice of the ACs, but not to use them as platform to lobby the Parliament.





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## Coordination on issues common to all ACs (E. Roller, MARE-D-3)

The Commission mentioned that, sometimes, when the same issue is discussed among different Advisory Councils, it can be difficult for the Commission to determine “the real advice”. In cross-cutting issues, such as the Control Regulation or the EMFF, there can be contradictory advices. If ACs are requested advice on an horizontal proposal, it would be good for the ACs to work together. Maybe form common groups for common recommendations. The Commission highlighted the “MAC & NWWAC Workshop on Marine Plastics and the Seafood Supply Chain” as a very good workshop. The Commission was extremely pleased and the workshop was very much welcomed.

LDAC Secretariat informed that, in the future, they would be proposing advices to other ACs, including to the MAC, in a manner similar to the EP ENVI Committee Opinions to the EP PECH Committee.

## HOW THE ACS' ADVICES ARE TAKEN ON BOARD

How ACs' advices were taken on board in 2018 and state of play in 2019 (P. Colson, DG MARE-D-3)

- [https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/3\\_1-ACs-advices-in-2018-without-notes.pdf](https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/3_1-ACs-advices-in-2018-without-notes.pdf)

The Commission highlighted that many priorities and recommendations on the EMFF were taken on board. Recommendations related to the implementation of the landing obligation highly contributed to the identification of potential choke solutions and best available tools. ACs were also associated in the preparation of 4 discard plans and the MAP for demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea. The Commission paid great attention to the ACs' recommendations on fishing opportunities when elaborating the TACs proposals. The ACs' numerous letters to the Commission on the consequence of Brexit may have raised awareness on potential issues and contributed to the preparation of 2 Commission decisions. Some recommendations on the Control Regulation were incorporated. The support of the ACs on Technical Measures was also very useful. The role played by ACs in regionalisation is essential.

ROLE OF THE ACS IN THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF THE CFP: Presentation by D. Vaigauskaite (MARE-D3)

- [https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/4\\_1-social-dimension\\_interAC-without-notes.pdf](https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/4_1-social-dimension_interAC-without-notes.pdf)

The Commission invited the ACs to look closer and provide assessments on the social dimension. Social sustainability is also an objective of the CFP. The CFP should promote socially responsible fisheries and aquaculture and contribute to a fair standard of living for



those who depend on fishing activities.

## STATE OF PLAY OF KEY FILES AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

### State of play of key files (E. Roller, MARE-D-3)

- [https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/5\\_1-State-of-play-of-key-files-v2-without-notes.pdf](https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/5_1-State-of-play-of-key-files-v2-without-notes.pdf)

### Administrative and financial issues (P. Colson and M. Aussems, MARE-D-3)

In relation to the organisation of meetings, **the Commission** emphasised that participation requests to the Commission must be sent in advance. These requests must be precise and explain why the Commission's presence is necessary. The agendas should not indicate directly who will participate from the Commission.

Recommendations should be sent to the Commission and Member States and not directly to the EP and other groups. Recommendations must be specific and connected to a topic, not covering an entire policy.

On UK members, if the UK becomes a third country, the ACs already have rules on third countries. UK organisations can be invited as active observers and can be reimbursed. Additionally, organisations can move. If a Member State has agreed on an organisation's participation as AC member, it is not necessary for the new MS to provide their endorsement, but they should be informed.

On operating grants, expenditure is only eligible when an application has been sent to the Commission. The application must reach the Commission before the start of a new Operating Year.

