



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
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Mr. Guus Pastoor
Chairman
Market Advisory Council
rue de la Science, 10
B-1000 Brussels

Ref : Your letter dated 6 May 2020

Subject: Future allocation of funds to the Advisory Councils (ACs)

Dear Mr. Pastoor,

Thank you for your letter regarding the allocation of funds to the Advisory Councils.

Let me first respond to the arguments you are developing in your letter. You argue that you have competence on all market areas, you have members from all Member States and a wider range of stakeholders represented, contrary to ACs with restricted geographical competences and a smaller number of stakeholders. While it is true that the MAC with its 57 members has many members, 5 ACs have more than 50 members and one is even close to 100.

You also say that using the 2016-2018 execution benefits the ACs that were funded earlier. I agree with you that funding needs increase with an AC's development, but given the trend observed for the MAC (€ 136.643 in 2016-2017; € 240.244 in 2017-2018; € 254. 618 in 2018-2019) it seems that a grant of € 270.000 should be able to satisfy 2020-2021 needs. However, as your financial exercise starts only in October, should you wish to obtain a grant of more than € 270.000 next October, I invite you to take contact with my services before applying in September so that we can check if we have margin available. The amount really executed by the MAC at the time of such a request would of course be a criterion to assess such a demand.

Let me also explain that 2016-2018 was the best period to be retained, given that 2016 is the first year in which the grant amount was increased from € 240.000 to € 300.000 and given that 2019 was not closed from a financial point of view and did not show the real amount spent. I do not agree that this is a blind measure as it gives a very clear indication of what the ACs' real needs and how they have evolved.

The criteria concerning the seat and Brussels aim mainly at taking into account the specific situation of the Outermost Regions AC, set up in 2020, that will have to face high travel costs with outermost regions very distant from each other and from Brussels.

I do not consider revising this methodology at this stage. However, I agree with you that the average number of observers attending meetings might be a relevant criterion which we might use from next year onwards, provided we can obtain data from each AC. Please be aware also that we aim to use every year more accurate data, so the 2019-2020 execution will be taken into account in 2021.

I hope this letter helps explain that each AC has its own needs and characteristics, and that the methodology we have put in place aims at satisfying their requirements.

Should you have any further question, may I invite you to contact Ms. Pascale Colson (pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273), coordinator for the ACs.

Yours sincerely,

Bernhard FRIESS
Acting Director-General