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MAC LETTER

Public Online Consultation on Horizon Europe Co-Design 2021-2024

The Market Advisory Council is a stakeholder-led organisation that provides the European Commission and EU Member States with recommendations on matters relevant for the EU market of fishery and aquaculture products and within the tasks defined in Article 44 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

On 28 June 2019, the European Commission launched its online consultation on the Horizon Europe Co-Design 2021-2024.

Apart from informing its members that they can provide input individually, the MAC has taken the opportunity to submit its own participation in the mentioned online consultation, after having discussed the topic at a MAC Working Group meeting on 3 September 2019.

A key global challenge for Horizon Europe will be to contribute to future food security, both by optimising the EU's own productive potential but also by contributing to development elsewhere through innovation and knowledge transfer to help combat the combined effects of climate change, loss of natural resources and demographic pressures, all of which will impact heavily on land based production systems.

By contrast, properly managed capture fisheries and sustainable aquaculture systems are both intrinsically renewable and low impact sources of protein and micronutrients essential to balanced and healthy diets. They can also generate valuable by-products for use in pharmaceutical and other processes, often replacing less sustainable alternatives. The MAC believes that much higher priority needs to be given to unlocking the full potential of fishery resources and improving their management and exploitation.

In parallel with this, more research is needed on threats to sustainability resulting from climate driven effects such as ocean acidification and temperature changes, which may displace fish populations and reduce their viability.

The MAC will be making further detailed suggestions on possible research topics in due course. But we wish to highlight the growing importance of a sector which is already the primary source of protein for around 2 billion people and which historically has seen relatively little investment compared to other parts of the food chain.

Best regards,
Guus Pastoor



Chair of the Market Advisory Council