



XUNTA DE GALICIA

A conselleira do Mar

Santiago de Compostela, 16 April 2021

Mr. Pedro Reis Santos

Secretary General of the Market Advisory Council

Rue de la Science 10

1000 Brussels (Belgium) secretary@marketac.eu

Dear Secretary,

We have recently learned that the Market Advisory Council asked the European Commission to consider allowing the direct export of raw bivalve molluscs from third countries to approved purification centres within the EU.

It must be said that we, in Galicia, disagree with this proposal, as it could create serious distortions of the single market. As we understand it, there would be a discriminatory treatment between EU and imported products throughout the production chain, from the production phase, to the processing and marketing phases.

Galicia understands that the fisheries production chain is long, complex and internationalised. It requires all economic operators to develop their activities under a minimum set of common rules. In other words, a level playing field that guarantees free trade and the integrity of the single market, within the framework of fair competition. Fair trade, whereby no State may distort the freedom of play through any intervention, which would result in greater protection for domestic economic actors.

This means that the EU Member States have strict systems and controls in place with a view of guaranteeing high food safety standards and ensuring that only safe food is marketed throughout Europe. This ensures that fishery and aquaculture products imported from third countries are treated equally with regard to meeting the same requirements (even stricter, if possible, for products of animal origin) as those required for products produced in the Member States.



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Therefore, we would also urge all Member States to comply with the provisions applicable to them and to comply uniformly with the legislation applicable to the imports of these products, so that they can only be imported after they have been purified.

In short, we demand that an authorisation to import from a third country does not contravene the rules guaranteeing food safety on the single market, given the high risks involved in the movement of live bivalve molluscs for human consumption. We, therefore, call for a commitment from the Market Advisory Council to adopt the appropriate measures to abide by this rule and ensure its homogeneous application throughout the European Union.

Without further ado, we thank you in advance for your kind attention.

Best regards,

Rosa Quintana Carballo