



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Fisheries Policy Mediterranean and Black Sea
The Director

Brussels,
MARE D3/PCO/ARES (2021)

**TO THE SECRETARIATS OF THE
AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COUNCIL
BALTIC SEA ADVISORY COUNCIL
BLACK SEA ADVISORY COUNCIL
LONG DISTANCE ADVISORY COUNCIL
MARKET ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEDITERRANEAN SEA ADVISORY COUNCIL
NORTH SEA ADVISORY COUNCIL
NORTH WESTERN WATERS ADVISORY COUNCIL
OUTERMOST REGIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL
PELAGIC ADVISORY COUNCIL
SOUTH WESTERN WATERS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: BETTER PLANNING OF MEETINGS AND STREAMLINING OF THE COMMISSION PARTICIPATION TO THOSE MEETINGS.

Dear Advisory Councils,

I would like to thank you for the good cooperation during 2021 and for your useful input and recommendations that help us shape the policy. As you know, DG MARE is keen to continue to strengthen and encourage the dialogue and to ensure participation of DG MARE colleagues in those discussions. At the same time, as discussed at various occasions, the number of meetings significantly increased these last years. The current policy context and virtual setting has provided a lot of opportunities, but also more meetings while topics became more and more diverse.

The Advisory Councils (ACs) were set up to benefit from the knowledge and experience of all stakeholders and ensure their appropriate involvement at all stages of the development and implementation of the common fisheries policy. While of course many policy developments are of importance and relevance for your and our work, when drafting recommendations or preparing meetings, it is important to keep a sense of prioritisation in the planning and focus of the work. This is the best way to have your voice heard and ensure an efficient work. This is why it is important to carefully consider the topics and focus for meetings and recommendations, and to set priorities in relation to the strong link with the CFP. In this same vein, it is important that we focus the Commission participation to topics that concern DG MARE, and only for very specific cases where a direct link with the CFP is established, foresee the involvement of other Commission services.

As discussed at the meeting with all secretariats of 26 November, in order to streamline Commission participation and to try to satisfy as much as possible your requests, it is also essential that you provide the Commission with an advance planning of meetings where Commission presence is considered essential.

With this in mind and complementing the information provided to the Commission in the context of the annual grant agreement, we would ask you to establish a more targeted and prioritised programming of meetings. In particular, we would ask you to provide as part of your annual work programmes a calendar of upcoming meetings with precise dates. This will allow you, us and all your members to organise the time and be assured that sufficient attention can be given to the important work that you do.

In order to put this in place, we kindly ask you to provide via the annex attached:

- 1) **By Friday 17 December 2021**, the list of all meetings and topics planned in January and February 2022, indicating for each item whether participation by the Commission is desired.
- 2) **By Friday 21 January 2022**, a complete **overview of all the meetings you plan to organise during the first half of 2022** indicating the dates and nature (General Assembly, Executive Committee, Working Group) and, where possible topics of the meetings as well as the need for Commission participation

This planning should supplement the ad hoc requests per meeting as a means to help us to alert the relevant MARE colleagues sufficiently in advance and to provide you, as early as possible, the confirmation of MARE participation.

In the meantime, to ensure transparency between the ACs we encourage you to continue using the common planning of meetings set up during 2021 and include all dates provided also in that planner. This will help identifying common issues to be raised at meetings where a participation by the Commission is expected, and enable you to consider the possibility of organising joint meetings.

Please continue to use the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu to send us your planning and of course for sending us the specific requests for Commission participation. As for the letter, please make sure that your request clearly indicates the meeting, date, topics and venue (if not virtual).

Let me thank you in advance for your cooperation. I am convinced that a better planning of meetings as well as the set of priorities for a Commission attendance will improve our participation to your meetings.

I am also looking forward to our next inter-ACs meeting scheduled on 19 January 2022. Let me finish by already announcing that we intend to organise another secretariats meeting in late February, which timing will be decided also taking into account your planning so as to ensure you can all be there.

Yours sincerely,

Lena ANDERSSON PENCH

Annex: template for ACs meetings