



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES  
The Director-General

Brussels  
MARE.A.4/

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

**Subject:       MAC Advice – Sustainable Food System Framework Initiative**

Dear Mr Pastoor,

I would like to thank the MAC for the recommendations addressed to the European Commission on the 15 February 2022 on the Sustainable Food System Framework Initiative.

DG MARE together with the other co-lead DGs (DG SANTE, DG AGRI and DG ENV) will assure to take them into account for the ongoing Impact Assessment (IA). While I will not go in detail into all your recommendations, as this is the task of the IA, I would like to comment on some of them.

You can be assured that, as you suggest, DG MARE works closely with the other DGs responsible for this initiative.

In relation to your recommendation on the need to ensure engagement of fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders, we wish to inform you that many consultation activities are planned for the coming months. A public consultation on this initiative will be launched end of April. In addition, targeted interviews, and targeted expert workshops are also planned in the coming months.

Regarding food safety, let me assure you that it will be preserved and there are no plans to undermine this fundamental point.

The specificities of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors as well as the legal framework established under the CFP, including the three pillars of sustainability, are of course also

important points that DG MARE always takes into consideration. I reassure you that it will be also the case for this specific initiative, as it is already underlined in the Inception IA.

The principles of subsidiarity, proportionality and better regulation govern the work of the Commission. The IA will analyse which options are the most proportionate to address the identified problems and efforts will be made to avoid unnecessary administrative burden and disproportionate costs.

Concerning your recommendation on food waste I would like to remind you that the Commission already supports stronger traceability as proposed in the Control Regulation, including a robust catch registration system, which will account for all species and discards. The Commission has also put an emphasis on the need for a more effective enforcement and control of the landing obligation. In its recent proposal for a revision of the Control Regulation (COM(2018)368 of 30/05/2018) the Commission proposes that certain vessels are equipped with continuous recording electronic monitoring devices including Close Circuit Televisions (CCTV).

Regarding affordability and tax incentives, one of the Farm to Fork strategy goals is that sustainable food also becomes the most affordable. Furthermore, the Strategy recognizes that tax incentives also drive the transition to a sustainable food system.

We are grateful for the MAC feedback and look forward to continue our cooperation on this important subject. Should you have any further queries, please contact Ms Pascale COLSON, coordinator of the Advisory Councils ([Pascale.COLSON@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Pascale.COLSON@ec.europa.eu)); +32.2.295.62.73), who will forward it to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]

Charlina VITCHEVA