



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/A4/GH (2022)

Subject: Recommendation of MAC concerning Product Environmental Category Rules (PEFCR) for Marine Fish for Human Consumption

Dear Mr. Pastoor,

I would like to thank the MAC for its advice on the Product Environmental Category Rules (PEFCR) for Marine Fish sent on 24 May 2022.

In your recommendation, you underline the need for policy coherence. Indeed, several Commission initiatives are aiming at interrelated objectives, in particular the green claims initiative; the horizontal food sustainability labelling planned under the Farm to Fork Strategy; and the revision of the fisheries marketing standards. We fully agree with the MAC that policy coherence and consistency are crucial for operators in the supply chain and for consumers. With that in mind, we are working very closely with the relevant Commission services (DG ENV and SANTE) to ensure an integrated approach.

We acknowledge that the PEF method - as it stands currently - does not reflect fisheries-specific sustainability hotspots, such as impacts on the fish stock or on the seabed. With the work that we are currently doing with the STECF on those sustainability criteria, we have the opportunity to address such gaps by working closely across DGs.

We take note of the MAC's concerns in relation to the potential burden for operators, especially SMEs. While the green claims initiative is still under development, it is clear that it will only address voluntary claims by operators, so a general obligation for applying the PEFCR is not foreseen at this point.

We are grateful for the feedback provided by the MAC and look forward to continue our cooperation on this important subject.

Mr. Guus Pastoor
Chairman
Market Advisory Council
bestuur@visfederatie.nl
rue de la Science, 10
B-1000 Brussels
BELGIUM

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 22991111
Office: J-99 05/014 - Tel. direct line +32 229-50483

charlina.vitcheva@ec.europa.eu

Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Pascale COLSON, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (Pascale.COLSON@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.62.73), who will forward them to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

(e-Signed)
Charlina VITCHEVA

c.c.: Pedro Reis Santos secretary@marketac.eu, F. Nikolian, E. Maire (ENV)