

Ms Charlina Vitcheva
Director-General, DG MARE
Rue Joseph II 99, 1049 Brussels

Brussels, 7 July 2022

Subject: Request for information, per Member State, on volume of catch certificates

Dear Ms Vitcheva,

At our 23 May 2022 Working Group 2 meeting, under the agenda item on “Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU Fishing & Global Governance”, members exchanged views on IUU fishing practices by a third country’s distant-water fleet, which could potentially be supplying the EU market. Nevertheless, difficulties were found in ascertaining the quantity of product entering the market and the controls undertaken by the Member States.

In order to ensure a constructive and informed discussion among our members, we would like to request you for information, per Member State, on the number of third country’s catch certificates presented to local authorities, the number of verifications undertaken, and the number of consignments refused, plus the corresponding reasons for refusal of importation, as listed in Article 18 of the IUU Regulation (or, at minimum, a differentiation between cases of administration uncompletion and cases of serious doubts about IUU practices). It would be particularly useful if the mentioned information was communicated via a uniform table.

We are aware that, in the context of the biennial reports by the Member States on the implementation of the IUU Regulation, some of the abovementioned data is transmitted to the Commission. We are also aware that these reports can be accessed following the submission of access to documents requests. Nevertheless, the data is not always uniform and can require further explanation. Considering the recognised role of the Advisory Councils in the provision of high-quality advice to the Commission, we hope that our request would be accepted.

We remain available to exchange with you, if any clarification is needed.

Yours sincerely,



Guus Pastoor
Chair of the Market Advisory Council