



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/B4/DB (2022)

Subject: Market Advisory Council (MAC)'s letter on Volume of Catch Certificates per Member State

Dear Mr. Pastoor,

Thank you for the letter from the Executive Committee of the Market Advisory Council (MAC) from 7 July. I want to apologise for the late reply.

The MAC Executive Committee is asking for information, per Member State, on:

- the number of third country's catch certificates presented to local authorities,
- the number of verifications undertaken,
- the number of consignments refused, plus the corresponding reasons for refusal of importation, as listed in Article 18 of the IUU Regulation.

I would like to confirm that the above data form part of Member States' biennial reports that are submitted to the Commission in line with Art. 55 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008. The latest biennial reports were received this year (for the reporting period 2020-2021) and my services have extracted the requested data from these reports (please see in the attached Excel table), as requested.

I would like to draw your attention to the following aspects related to these data:

- Member States are using different approaches to controls under the catch certification scheme, and are therefore not reporting the requested information in a uniform manner – as you also indicated in your letter. A number of explanations and comments are provided by Member States in biennial reports that put numerical data (or their absence) in context. For example, an indication that not all catch certificates are checked and that only part of them is verified by applying risk management may still mean that all certificates are to a certain extent controlled. Therefore, for a complete and accurate picture, textual parts of the

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

reports, and further explanations if necessary, would need to be taken into account too.

- Italy and Luxembourg have not submitted biennial reports; so we could not include these data (we are following-up on this matter).
- Biennial reports have been regularly requested from the Commission under the access to documents requests. On these occasions, Member States were consulted about their agreement to disclose reports, in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1049/2001. Only those data for which Member States gave their agreement is included in the attached table.

I hope this reply provides answers to your questions.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. 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,

Charlina VITCHEVA

Enclosure: Extracts from biennial reports (2022)

c.c.: Pedro Reis Santos secretary@marketac.eu