



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

Brussels
MARE.A.4/

Dear Ms Bermudez,

I would like to thank the Market Advisory Council (MAC) for the 2 recommendations addressed to the European Commission on the 13 December 2022 on the Sustainable Food System Framework Initiative and on the incorporation of measurement and communication on environmental and social sustainability in fishery and aquaculture products.

DG MARE is one of the four DGs responsible for this initiative. The Commission is currently working on an Impact Assessment. The specificities of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors are taken into account in this work.

You can be assured that the current work on the Legislative Framework for a Union Sustainable Food System (FSFS) fully recognises that all actors along the supply chain have an important role to play in the transition to a sustainable food system. One of the objectives of the framework is the establishment of EU-wide general objectives, principles and definitions relevant for the sustainability of the food system. The Impact Assessment will also look into the possibility to establish specific minimum requirements for food operations. Governance aspects for the system are in addition considered in the current analysis of the Impact Assessment.

Furthermore, I would like to remind MAC that the Commission has put in place supporting actions or “enablers” of the Farm to Fork Strategy that, as such, also support the transition to sustainable food systems. Some examples of this support are EMFAF projects that can foster sustainable seafood production (including processing and marketing fishery and aquaculture products), therefore contributing to food security in the EU. Horizon Europe in areas of Research and Innovation or BlueInvest may also be mentioned if we look into facilitating investments.

I also agree that schools and public institutions, through public procurements for food can play a role in the transition as well as in the need to increase knowledge and skills amongst actors of supply chains.

As regards consumer information, the Commission services are currently assessing in the Impact Assessment the approach of incorporating crucial fisheries-specific sustainability aspects in the FSFS framework. Your advice makes it clear that this is the preferred option of the MAC. However please note that, subject to the outcome of the ongoing

Impact Assessment, the proposal for the FSFS framework could stay at a general level and that more specific provisions would be proposed later in subsequent acts. As highlighted by the MAC advice, a comprehensive and at the same time pragmatic approach limiting burdens for operators, in particular SMEs, is followed in the work on the Impact Assessment.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact the functional mailbox of the Advisory Councils MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu, which will forward them to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

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