



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/B3/CG

Dear Mr Reis Santos

Thank you for your email on 30 November 2023 in which you shared with us the MAC advice and recommendations on “Forced Labour in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Market”.

We appreciate the high quality of your recommendations and your comprehensive approach towards preparing them.

The European Union holds major responsibilities as flag, port and market States to manage fisheries and aquaculture sustainably. The proposal for a regulation to prohibit products made with forced labour on the EU market, as you pointed out, is an important piece to combat forced labour in general and in the fisheries sector, as it covers all products, including fisheries and aquaculture products.

This proposal strengthens the Commission efforts in fighting forced labour. It is part of a wider set of measures adopted by the Commission to promote decent work and address the issue of forced labour in global supply chains, as described in the Communication on Decent Work Worldwide. Other relevant actions include horizontal and sectoral EU policies (e.g., the proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive) as well as the revision of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement social provisions to better frame the condition for decent work; and engagement with third partner countries, stakeholders in bilateral and multilateral fora.

The proposal is now under discussion by the co-legislators. Your advice has been shared with the Directorate General in charge of this initiative. My services are closely following this process.

I am looking forward to continuing the discussion.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

Secretary General of the Market Advisory Council
10 Rue de la Science, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

c.c.:

Celine IDIL
Emmanuel BERCK
Pawel SZATKOWSKI
Anais DEMAILLE
Charlotte GOBIN

