



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE/B3/KMF

Dear Ms Bermudez,

I would like to thank you for the Recommendation of the Market Advisory Council on the initiative “Better protecting sharks through sustainable fishing and trade” that we received on 7 August 2024.

As the document rightly points out, the Commission is currently consulting stakeholders, civil society organisations and the scientific community to ensure a well-informed follow-up to the European Citizens Initiative “Stop Finning – Stop the Trade” asking for an EU ban on trade in shark fins.

While a call for evidence and an online public consultation have ended in May and June this year respectively, I would like to reassure you that your recommendation is still very timely and will be duly taken into consideration in further impact assessment work, including an internal Commission analysis and an independent study to be launched this autumn.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia Rubeck, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox [MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu](mailto:MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu).

Yours sincerely,

(e-Signed)  
Charlina VITCHEVA

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