



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/D3/MMM

Dear Ms Bermudez,

Thank you for your advice and recommendations on the Marine Action Plan and please accept our apologies for the delay in replying.

As you underline in your letter, the Action Plan is not a legislative proposal, and as such did not entail an impact assessment. It is a political call on Member States to step up ambition to meet their commitments made under the EU Biodiversity strategy and the global biodiversity framework by 2030.

In your letter, you state your concerns on how some recommended actions could impact European market.

This, along with the European Union food dependency on imports, have been one of the drivers inspiring the actions proposed. We need a resilient and robust fishing sector, that can ensure its activity for the generations to come. This can only be achieved through the necessary changes to respect marine ecosystems that would render the optimum yields in the medium and long term.

You mention the actions proposed to minimise the impact on the seabed or on the sensitive species. These are essential to protect unique habitats and species which are part of the European seas. Further, it has been proven that maintaining and protecting biodiversity is essential pillar to underpin food security.

In addition to these actions, the Marine Action Plan goes beyond and proposes measures to improve the current fishing patterns. That would help reach the optimum yield for commercial species, which are important for the European markets and dietary habits.

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The Action Plan deliberately leaves its implementation in the hands of Member States, as envisaged in the CFP, as they are best suited to address the regional and local specificities. Each proposal would come accompanied with the necessary information to support it, presenting all relevant elements to be considered prior to its adoption.

The process is not easy and will not happen overnight. This is why we all need to be committed to help the EU fishing sector in this transition. In this regard, I take the opportunity to recall that last April, we had a workshop on financing of the implementation of the Action Plan. I take note of your proposal to organise a workshop dedicated to assessing the impacts on market which I very much welcome as a follow up to and complementing the work by Member States in preparing the roadmaps.

Regarding your recommendations on the drafting of the Member States roadmaps, I agree that these should be fully coherent with fisheries and environmental acquis and the Commission is in contact with the Member States to encourage them all to submit and publish their roadmaps and to be as concrete as possible therein. I am confident that your commitment and engagement in this process, will support the Member States. I invite you to strengthen the dialogue with National Authorities and the fishing sector.

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.

Yours sincerely,

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