



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/B.3/ILR

Subject: Recommendation of MAC concerning Twentieth Session of the FAO's Sub-Committee on Fish Trade

Dear Ms Bermudez,

Thank you for submitting on 20 August the advice of the Market Advisory Council (MAC) in preparation for the 20th Session of the FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (COFI:FT).

We agree with many of the recommendations contained in your letter. We recognise the challenges faced by global fisheries, including those posed by climate change and ocean pollution. The EU remains firmly committed to promoting a predictable, rules-based global trade framework and to fostering multilateral cooperation, which are essential for resilient and sustainable international supply chains.

We acknowledge the critical role of the FAO in enabling global trade in fishery and aquaculture products. This includes the development of internationally recognised standards, the promotion of sustainable production practices, and support for capacity development worldwide. The EU also promotes strong cooperation with the relevant international organisations on food safety and quality for aquatic products, in particular regarding the harmonisation of international standards.

We further emphasise the importance of the EU catch certification scheme for marine capture fishery products and its digitalisation through the CATCH system. Such mechanisms are vital for ensuring traceability, transparency, and compliance with EU standards, maintaining a level playing field and strengthening the global fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Ms Yobana Bermudez
Chair
Market Advisory Council
yobana.bermudez@conxemar.com
Regus EU Commission
6 Rond-Point Robert Schuman
1040 Brussels
BELGIUM

I look forward to our continued 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,

Charlina VITCHEVA

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