



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE.D.3/SB

Subject: AAC Recommendation for a Vision for Aquaculture in 2040

Dear Mr Thomsen,

I would like to thank the AAC for its recommendation on the Vision for Aquaculture in 2040. We appreciate the strategic input provided by the AAC and the emphasis on aligning the aquaculture vision with broader agricultural policies and frameworks.

I take note of your concern over the European Union's lack of a Common Aquaculture Policy, despite having established Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies and your request for a policy framework that elevates aquaculture to an equal standing with agriculture and fisheries. I acknowledge your opinion that this would encourage Member States to prioritize the sustainable growth of aquaculture and support its strategic importance in reversing dependency on imports to meet demand for aquatic food, thereby enhancing food autonomy, security, and resilience.

The Commission is aware that the growth of EU aquaculture to date (24% between 2013 and 2023, according to Eurostat) fails to contribute sufficiently to those objectives and that more needs to be done to facilitate and speed up sustainable growth of aquaculture activities in the EU.

DG MARE will take into consideration your proposal for a long-term vision for aquaculture. We are still at the beginning of the preparation of the Vision 2040 for fisheries and aquaculture. Throughout the coming months, we will be building on the various consultation processes (CFP Regulation evaluation, energy transition partnership, external action strategy) as well as the results of the CFP Regulation evaluation and the mid-term assessment of the implementation of the strategic guidelines for EU aquaculture, which have just been published. Our objective is to present the Vision for fisheries and aquaculture in the second half of 2026.

Rest assured that the Advisory Councils will continue to play a central role throughout this process. I look forward to our continued fruitful cooperation on the fisheries and aquaculture policy agenda.

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Should you have further questions, please contact Ms. Julia Rubeck, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu

Yours sincerely,

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