



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE A.4/MJ

Subject: MAC Advice on Competitiveness of the EU Market of Fishery and Aquaculture Products – Simplification and reduction of administrative burden

Dear Ms Bermudez,

I would like to thank the Market Advisory Council for its advice on Competitiveness of the EU Market of Fishery and Aquaculture Products – Simplification and reduction of administrative burden, received on 24 March 2026.

Across our efforts to implement the European Ocean Pact and the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), simplification and ensuring that rules remain implementable are key priorities. Yet, simplification does not mean deregulation. This implementation work must be carried out in line with the level of ambition set by the European Parliament and the Council.

The Commission is currently conducting an evaluation of the CFP Regulation. The evaluation will provide a robust assessment of whether the Regulation is still fit for purpose and which lessons can be learned, with a particular attention to all three pillars of sustainable development: environmental, economic, and social. Based on the evaluation findings the Commission will reflect on the next steps.

We take note of your reflections, and we remain open to listen very carefully to all stakeholders flagging both the benefits and the challenges observed in the implementation of the various measures. DG MARE is reviewing requirements across all policy areas to identify overlaps, remove what is obsolete and make much better use of digital tools. This is what we call the stress test of the entire MARE acquis to be delivered during the period 2025–2029. We are actively advancing our simplification agenda, including progress in stress testing and the follow-up to its results, the development of reality checks, and the organisation of implementation dialogues. In this context, your timely recommendations will be highly valuable in supporting our work.

I fully agree on the need to strengthen coordination with other relevant DGs to enhance synergies, improve clarity and further advance simplification efforts.

The Advisory Councils will continue to play an important role throughout this process. I look forward to our continued fruitful cooperation.

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

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

