



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 – Upcoming studies on the Fisheries Control Regulation

Dear Ms Yobana Bermudez,

I would like to thank the Market Advisory Council (MAC) for its comprehensive advice on ‘Competitiveness of the EU Market of Fishery and Aquaculture Products – Upcoming studies on the Fisheries Control Regulation’ and for its continued engagement in discussions related to the EU market for fishery and aquaculture products.

We appreciate the detailed analysis and practical insights provided by the MAC regarding both the expected benefits and the implementation challenges associated with the revised Fisheries Control Regulation, particularly in relation to the new digitalisation and traceability requirements.

The Commission welcomes the MAC's recognition that simplification efforts should remain fully consistent with the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy and the broader EU sustainability goals. We share the view that simplification and reducing administrative burden should not compromise the objectives and effectiveness of fisheries control, the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, or the transparency and traceability necessary to support sustainable resource management and consumer confidence.

The Commission notes the MAC's comments regarding the diversity of digital solutions currently available, the importance of interoperability, and the objective to avoid unnecessary duplication of data entry. We particularly appreciate the MAC's detailed assessment of operational challenges linked to traceability information sharing.

The recommendations provided by the MAC will contribute to shaping the scope of the work and the issues examined during the study process. In this context, I would like to underline the important role that the Advisory Councils will play in the delivery of the study. Their expertise and stakeholder perspectives will provide valuable input throughout

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the process, and we are looking forward to engaging with them at the various stages of the study's development.

We thank the MAC once again for its thoughtful and detailed recommendations and look forward to continued cooperation throughout the development of the studies and the ongoing implementation of the revised Fisheries Control Regulation.

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,

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