



Ms. Charlina Vitcheva

Director General

Directorate General Maritime Affairs & Fisheries

Rue de la Loi 200

1049 Brussels

BELGIUM

Date: 30 April 2021

Our reference: 2021PAC18

Subject: Stakeholder participation in future fisheries management and governance structures, post-Brexit

Dear Ms. Charlina Vitcheva,

Following the Inter-Advisory Council meeting held on the 22nd February 2021, the Advisory Councils wish to collectively emphasise the vital importance of stakeholder participation in future management and governance structures to be established for partnership working with the UK. Whilst not all Advisory Councils are directly affected by Brexit, this principle is central to all of us – so we are writing jointly on this subject.

During the meeting, which was designed to provide a briefing on core components of the Trade & Cooperation Agreement with the UK, and provide an insight into next steps from a fisheries management perspective, it was noted that very little is currently known about the formation of the ‘Specialised Committee on Fisheries’ provided for in Article FISH.16 of the Agreement.

Whilst it is understood that an array of complex factors and inter-dependent deadlines are delaying progress with regards to the establishment of this Committee, when asked about plans for stakeholder engagement with the Committee - or in structures that would feed into this body - the answer from the Commission was concerning: that stakeholder engagement was not yet foreseen in this regard.

The Advisory Councils would like to clarify whether this refers to an absence of planning, or an absence of intent.

Further, we would seek to emphasise the crucial role that stakeholder participation has played in the shaping and delivery of the CFP since the formation of the ACs in 2002. A system that is informed by the balanced views of industry and other interest group

stakeholders is one that is more reflective of the needs of its users, and this will continue to be the case in the post-Brexit landscape.

We urge the Commission to plan to ensure that stakeholder engagement and advice is central to all future management and governance structures being developed as the new relationship between the EU and UK takes concrete form.

The Advisory Councils stand willing to contribute to this process, and we look forward to engaging further with the Commission on this subject. As an opportunity to do so in the near-term, this subject has been added as an agenda item at the next Inter-AC meeting, scheduled for the 5th May 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Jesper Raakjaer
Chairman Pelagic AC



Javier Ojeda
Chairman Aquaculture AC



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