



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE/A3.MP

**Subject: Your recommendation on the updated Strategic Partnership between the EU and the Outermost Regions**

Dear Mr Pavón,

Thank you for your recommendation n.18 on the updated Strategic Partnership between the EU and the Outermost Regions.

Let me firstly thank you once again for the very warm welcome at the General Assembly last month. It has been a real pleasure to meet you, your team and the CC RUP members and to get further insights on the fisheries in the Outermost Regions and the specific challenges you face.

As for the elements of the recommendation received on Mayotte, Azores and Canary Islands, I would like to reassure you that the Commission understands the key importance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the Outermost Regions, as demonstrated by the new EMFAF Regulation adopted last June.

Concerning the elements on Mayotte, the current access agreement allowing industrial vessels from Seychelles to fish in the EEZ of Mayotte is now under re-negotiation. The recommendations you make will therefore be addressed in that context. Please note that a second round of negotiations should take place before the end of the year.

On France's request to grant state aid for new fishing vessels in its outermost regions: the State aid for fleet renewal in ORs is an exception to the general rule, which prohibits aid for the acquisition of new vessels. It is therefore subject to strict conditions in order to make it compatible with the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) objectives as well as EU international commitments on the prohibition of harmful fisheries subsidies. In this context, we must ensure that the proposed aid would only target segments in a situation of balance from a conservation point of view, as evidenced by the latest available and validated data. Discussions with FR authorities are on-going to ensure that these principles and requirements will be adhered to fully.

Mr. David Pavón  
President of the Executive Committee of CC RUP  
[dpavon@ccrup.eu](mailto:dpavon@ccrup.eu)  
Rua de São Paulo, 3  
9760-540 Praia da Vitória  
Açores -PORTUGAL

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 22991111  
Office: J-99 05/014 - Tel. direct line +32 229-50483

Charlina.VITCHEVA@ec.europa.eu

Regarding aquaculture in Mayotte, the Commission is aware of the difficulties in the development of aquaculture. Our services have been informed on the delay of the aquaculture hatchery and will gather more information on this specific issue. For the upcoming funding period, I would like to note with satisfaction the will expressed by France to improve the pace of implementation of the EMFAF Operational Programme.

Concerning control in recreational fishing (pointed by Azores and Canary Islands), this Recommendation No. 18 refers to important actions already raised by Recommendation No. 13 (June 2021), namely:

1. the need to improve the control and data collection on recreational fishing in the Outermost Regions to select effective and adequate management measures;
2. the need to better estimate the impact of recreational fisheries to tackle the growing tensions between recreational and commercial fishers, namely in Azores and Canary Islands.

The Commission is aware and fully committed to further develop the areas highlighted by the recommendation. The Commission is taking a number of actions to deal adequately with the issues outlined by the CCRUP, namely by:

1. supporting reliable and uniform data collection;
2. pushing for a modern and effective control system and an adequate enforcement system.

Data and knowledge are vital to assess the impact of recreational fishing on specific stocks and to set appropriate management and control measures. As you are aware, we recently launched a study on the state of data collection and scientific advice in the EU Outermost Regions. The purpose is to provide an overview, covering artisanal and industrial/commercial capture fisheries, including recreational/sport fisheries, in the form of a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis. The study should be finalized in the third quarter of 2021 and we will publish its outcomes.

On the control side, the Commission's proposal for the revision of the Control Regulation contains a licensing system for recreational anglers and compulsory reporting, to improve control and monitoring. With this, we will know who is catching what and where. We are also proposing to reinforce the traceability provisions to avoid illegal marketing of fisheries products.

Improved data collection, a modern and effective control system and an adequate enforcement system are key elements to reduce illegal practices and increase transparency *vis a vis* commercial fisheries. The CCRUP has a key role to steer the communication, produce recommendations and help to overcome resistance, explaining why data collection and certain control measures are positive and necessary.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Pascale COLSON, coordinator of the Advisory Councils ([Pascale.COLSON@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Pascale.COLSON@ec.europa.eu); +32.2.295.62.73), who will forward them to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

c.c.: Daniela Costa [dcosta@ccrup.eu](mailto:dcosta@ccrup.eu)