



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE/B4/AB

Dear Mr Pavón,

I thank you very much for the Recommendation n.º34 “Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing – the case of French Guyana” received on 3 January 2023.

IUU fishing is indeed a serious threat to the sustainable exploitation of the living aquatic resources. It also represents a major hazard to the marine environment, the sustainability of fish stocks and marine biodiversity. This is why the EU Commission has relentlessly pursued the fight against IUU fishing as an integral part of the European Green Deal and the Biodiversity Strategy 2030.

The EU applies the EU Regulation already since 2010 to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. All countries, whether Member States or third countries, have a responsibility to fulfil their international obligations as flag, port, coastal or market States to fight IUU fishing.

When it comes to reinforcing the sanctions for those engaged in IUU fishing as recommended in your letter, the EU IUU Regulation is calling on its Member States to ensure that they have in place an effective, proportionate and dissuasive system of sanctions. French Guyana being an overseas department of France, France is responsible to ensure that deterrent sanctions are imposed in cases of IUU fishing in its Guyanese waters. Another tool available to the authorities in France, including French Guyana, is to use the EU catch certification scheme to prevent entry of fishery products stemming from illegal activities by applying the catch certification scheme.

Moreover, the European Commission is in contact with the French authorities in order to find the best way forward to address the IUU fishing issues in French Guyana.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact the functional mailbox for the communications with the Advisory Councils [MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu](mailto:MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu).

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Yours sincerely,

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