



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/B2/SH/Ares(2024)

Dear Mr. Marzoa Notlevsen,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 4 October supporting the Long-Distance Advisory Council's (LDAC) recommendations in relation to the on-going 24th special meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The recommendations helped to inform us in establishing an EU position for this ICCAT meeting. We have also had the pleasure of discussing many of these elements with your colleagues during the ICCAT stakeholder meeting on 7 October and this week in my meeting with the stakeholders on the margins of the session itself.

With regards to the provisions in the LDAC advice for which the Mediterranean Advisory Council is not fully aligned, first, I want to stress that I am keenly aware of the issues which the Mediterranean fishers have to face. We are therefore constantly striving to take account of this particular situation, also in the ICCAT context. As an example of this, I would like to highlight that the EU has tabled a proposal at this year's ICCAT annual meeting which would allow a certain flexibility when it comes to bluefin tuna in terms of the number of EU small-scale coastal vessels licenced to operate in the Gulf of Lion.

In terms of any potential regional observer scheme for tropical tunas, we assure you that, where relevant, special attention will be given to the specific case of the Mediterranean.

Finally, we are committed to ensuring that ICCAT works with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean to improve the driftnet framework in terms of the interplay between both organisations. The EU will insist that all relevant stakeholders are consulted throughout this process.

Mr. Marzoa Notlevsen
Chair of the Mediterranean Advisory Council
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I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia RUBECK, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA