



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE/D3/MMM

Dear Mr Marzoa Notlevsen,

I am writing to you regarding your contribution to the STECF Expert Working Group (EWG) 24-16 on technical measures, which was held in the Joint Research Centre facilities in Ispra from 21 to 25 October.

I would first, however, want to express my great concern over social media posts (for example Federacion Nacional de Confradias post of 09 December - [https://x.com/fncp\\_pescadores/status/1866074550040989913?s=12](https://x.com/fncp_pescadores/status/1866074550040989913?s=12)) with you and other MEDAC members, holding unacceptable collages, calling Commission staff “guilty”. You have certainly heard Commissioner Kadis condemning personal attacks on Commission staff at his meeting with the Advisory Councils on 3 December, given that we function collectively – as an institution – and responsibly to defend the interest of the EU citizens; guarding and implementing the EU Treaties and legislation; and under common rules of ethics and impartiality.

As a Chair and members of an Advisory Council established under the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation, I expect that you also interact in a professional and ethical manner; and to ensure this, I will be pursuing ethical codes to bind Advisory Councils and their members, in the spirit of collective responsibility and good faith cooperation.

In your letter, you mention the recently adopted second report on the implementation of EU Regulation 2019/1241 (the “technical measures”, TMR), underlining that there is only one Delegated Act amending the TMR in what concerns the Mediterranean, because most of the work in the region is done at GFCM level. While the Commission recognises the importance of multilateralism in the pursuit of healthier Mediterranean ecosystems and fisheries, it is important that the EU continues leading the way with innovative and ambitious projects to implement more sustainable fishing practices.

You also remark that Member States have implemented various national measures to protect commercial species. As you know, to prepare the above-mentioned report, the Commission invited all Member States, Advisory Councils and any other relevant stakeholders to share their expertise on the implementation of the TMR. The quality of the replies received demonstrates the involvement and dynamism of Member States,

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though greater effort needs to be undertaken to minimise the negative impact of fishing activity.

As for the development of the STECF EWG 24-16, let me thank the MEDAC for the support showed in your letter and by your active participation as observer. The participation of MEDAC was instrumental to know your members' opinion and expectations. I can only transmit how positively the engagement from MEDAC was received, something that I encourage you to continue doing.

MEDAC suggested several studies assessing gear modifications as well as both biological gains and economic impact. The documentation has been analysed by STECF. Any further documentation that can be provided by the Advisory Councils would also be analysed by STECF.

The roadmap planned for this group is for the medium term, to produce a standardized methodology that can help us to assess the impact of technical measures to protect the stocks, while at the same time maximising the yields for our fishers.

This work is crucial as we need to continue promoting more sustainable practices for fishers. Now, with the compensation mechanism proposed and facilitated by the Commission, and agreed by the EU fisheries ministers during the Agrifish Council on 9-10 December 2024, fishers in the Western Mediterranean can benefit from a substantial recovery of fishing days, if they commit to selectivity, closure areas and innovative fishing gears. This will produce the change, that is absolutely necessary and we collectively should lead, to achieve resilient future for our sector.

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](mailto:MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu).

Yours sincerely,

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