



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE.D.3/PCO

Ms Sally Clink
Executive Secretary
Baltic Sea Advisory Council
sc@bsac.dk

Subject: Feedback from the Baltic Sea Advisory Council to the European Commission's initiative on the Farm to Fork Strategy "F2F"

Your ref.: BSAC 2020-2021/6

Dear Ms Clink,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 1 May 2020, and welcome the Baltic Sea Advisory Council's (BSAC) feedback on the Commission's initiative "Farm to Fork Strategy".

As you are aware, the Farm to Fork Strategy¹ was adopted on 20 May 2020 and, in line with your contribution, it highlights the importance of fishers and seafood in the development of a sustainable and forward-looking food system for Europe. In fact, it calls for the shift to sustainable fish and seafood production to be accelerated. In particular, the Strategy announces that the Commission will step up efforts to bring fish stocks to sustainable levels via the Common Fisheries Policy where implementation gaps remain (e.g. by reducing wasteful discarding), strengthening fisheries management where it is most needed. The Farm to Fork Strategy acknowledges that the current Common Fisheries Policy is bearing positive results and has all the right tools to achieve the objectives of sustainable fisheries, so it is now crucial to continue working towards its full implementation.

The Commission will also scale up its fight against food fraud to achieve a level playing field for operators and strengthen the powers of control and enforcement authorities. In this regard, the proposed revision of the EU's fisheries control system is also mentioned in the Strategy as it will contribute to the fight against fraud through an enhanced traceability system.

¹ COM/2020/381final, *A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system*. Available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0381>.

The Farm to Fork Strategy sets the vision for sustainable food systems in Europe, in line with the European Green Deal. The actions it announces, including those relevant for fisheries, will be brought forward through dedicated initiatives, as it will be the case of the report on the functioning of the Common Fisheries Policy. We invite you to also contribute to the relevant consultation exercises of such initiatives. In this regard, let me also encourage you to have a look to the Commission webpage on published initiatives regularly, which gives you the opportunity to share with us your views on laws and policies in development. I would also encourage you to share this link with all your members.

Let me also refer my appreciation for your involvement in updating the Baltic Sea Action Plan. Your contribution can build upon the concept of sustainable competitiveness, key for the recovery of fish stocks in the Baltic.

To conclude, I would like to stress that the success of the Farm to Fork strategy is very much linked to the active engagement of all stakeholders in the food value chain. We are happy to see that the Farm to Fork Strategy answers to many of your suggestions and we look forward to continue implementing it on the ground with you.

I invite you to take contact with Ms Pascale Colson (Pascale.Colson@ec.europa.eu; + 32 2 29 56273) should you have any further question on this reply.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA