

Brussels, 04.10.2013

MK/pb CAB Ares (2013) 3255499

Dear Chairmen,

On the 1st January 2014, the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) will enter into force. One of the key elements of this reform is to strengthen the role of stakeholders, including the Advisory Councils which are expected to play a proactive role in advising the Member States and the Commission on the implementation of a regionalized CFP.

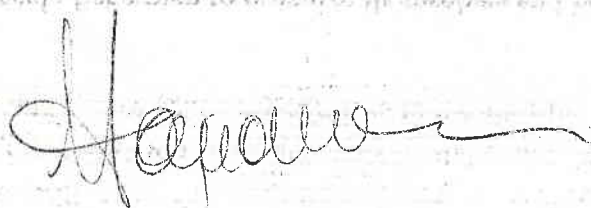
In order to be able to carry out this role effectively, it is essential that ACs have the necessary representativeness, i.e. that all legitimate stakeholders have a fair opportunity to participate and express their view. In this context, it is one of my priorities to ensure that small scale fishermen, as well as all other legitimate stakeholders, have a real impact in the decision-making process through their effective participation in the Advisory Councils.

I trust that the Advisory Councils will take the necessary steps to ensure that their composition does reflect a balanced representation of all interests at stake and, in particular, the interest of small scale fishermen, and I have asked my services to monitor the situation in the coming months.

It is particularly important for small scale fishermen to organize themselves and become truly actively involved in the activities of the Advisory Councils. Several funding possibilities exist in the Commission's proposal for the new EMFF, which is still under discussion in the Parliament and in the Council, to encourage the participation of small scale fishermen in the implementation of the CFP. In particular, small scale vessels and fleets will have privileged access to all measures in the sustainable fisheries chapter, through higher aid intensity rates (i.e. an additional 25 percentage points). Such an increase is expected to facilitate the participation of the small scale coastal fleet in social dialogue.

It is very important that we make use of these possibilities so that small scale fishermen have a voice in Europe and I am confident that progress can be made on this issue.

Yours sincerely,



Baltic Sea RAC

Mr Reine Johansson (Chairperson)
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 37, 3rd floor
DK-1553 Copenhagen

RACMED

Mr Giampaolo Buonfiglio (Chairperson)
Via Torino 146
I - 00184 Rome

NSRAC

Mr Niels Wichmann (Chairperson)
Cammach Business Centre
~~Greenbank Road~~
East Tullos
Aberdeen, UK
AB12 3BN

North Western Waters RAC

Mr Bertie Armstrong (Chair of the Exec. Committee)
BIM, PO Box 12
Crofton Road,
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin

Pelagic RAC

Mr Ian MacSween (Chairperson)
Treubstraat 17
POBox 72
NL-2280 AB Rijswijk

CCR-Sud

Mr Aurelio Bilbao (Chairperson)
8 rue François Toullec
F-56100 Lorient