



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Natural Capital
Nature Protection
The Head of Unit

Brussels 21 June 2021
ENV.D.3/NN/VN/PP

Dear Mr Sverdrup-Jensen,

Thank you for your letter of 24 April 2021 in which you expressed the interest of the Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) in the work of the Marine Expert Group under the Birds and Habitats Directives and in the discussions on the draft technical note on criteria and guidance for protected area designations.

First, let me clarify that the Marine Expert Group (MEG) is a sub-group of the Commission's expert group "Co-ordination group for biodiversity and nature" (CGBN) to which relevant Commission's horizontal rules on the operation of expert groups apply. The work of the MEG is co-ordinated by the Nature protection Unit (D.3) of DG Environment.

In your letter, you expressed a number of comments related to the discussions in the last meeting of the MEG in February 2021, which were focused on the protection and restoration commitments under the Biodiversity strategy. You expressed a wish to attend the future meetings of the group, to observe the proceedings and discussions, and to know who takes part.

I want to reassure you that a wide range of stakeholders is already taking part in the meetings of the group, including the representatives of the fishing sector and civil society. We would also welcome the participation of the BSAC as a member of the group. Please kindly send us the contact of the representative of your organisation that would be attending the meetings of the MEG so that we can include it in the mailing list.

I appreciate your interest and engagement in marine conservation and I have taken note of your invitation to take part in the future BSAC meetings to provide an update on the ongoing work under the Biodiversity strategy. Please contact the coordinator of the Marine Expert Group, Mr Vedran Nikolić (vedran.nikolic@ec.europa.eu) for any further questions or suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Notaro

c.c.: Anna Cheilari (ENV D.3), Fabio Pirotta (ENV C.2), Katarzyna Janiak (MARE D.3)

Mr Esben Sverdrup-Jensen
Chair of the BSAC Executive Committee
sc@bsac.dk

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 22991111
Office: BU-5 06/140 - Tel. direct line +32 229-90499

Nicola.Notaro@ec.europa.eu