



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/D3/PCO Ares(2022)

Subject: Your letter of 22 June 2022 on notification to the Advisory Councils of relevant meetings

Dear Ms Aleksandrova, Caggiano, Mathies, Fouquet and Talevska;

Thank you for your joint-letter on notification to the Advisory Councils (ACs) of relevant meetings.

The ACs have indeed a crucial place in the implementation of the CFP and, given their specific role, they are the ideal contact points to reach out to hundreds of stakeholders at the same time. They currently represent 518 stakeholder organisations from both industry and other Interest Group in over 20 Member States, which is a real sign of success. Indeed the ACs have grown in number of members. They are also covering more and more issues, in particular since the adoption of the Green Deal, the Biodiversity Strategy or the Farm to Fork Strategy. This is what we pointed out in the Commission Staff Working Document accompanying the Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the state of play and orientations for 2023¹.

Evidently, it is important for the ACs to be aware of important meetings and where possible to take part in these. I can assure you that this is of importance for the Commission and we are continuing our efforts to disseminate information.

Let me come back to the events you are referring to in your letter.

As far as the MARE/CINEA “Planning for the future of Europe’s Marine Space – MSP Stakeholder Conference - BREST 14-15 June 2022” is concerned, this was an event open to all stakeholders widely publicised in the weeks prior to the event. It resulted in a successful conference and large attendance both in Brest and online with over 450 participants. A number of fisheries organisations registered or participated (such as MEDAC). In addition, as observers to the Member States expert group on maritime spatial planning, Europêche and EAPO were informed. The Commission will continue to

¹ See SWD(2022)157 of 1 June 2022

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enhance dialogue with Member States and stakeholders on maritime spatial planning, including by setting a European Blue Forum for users of the sea due to start at the end of 2022.

As far as the 2022 Seminar on fisheries is concerned (about which you mentioned you were informed at a very short notice), this hybrid event brought together more than 200 participants, including some representatives of the Advisory Councils. There was no invitation sent to any specific organisation or individuals other than the intervening participants (presenters and panel members) and instead the event was advertised on DG MARE website and on social media at the end of May, as well as in the MARE Newsletter in early June.

I agree with you that the participation by ACs members can indeed be facilitated by routinely notifying the ACs of the schedules of various MARE events such as the science seminar. As you know the colleagues in charge of the coordination are making great efforts to this extent. Still such information should be seen as additional awareness raising and it cannot and should not replace all other channels used to publicise events. In this regard and in order for you to have the best information possible, I invite you to also follow DG MARE on social media, to consult in a regular way our website and monthly newsletters (to which you can subscribe), in order to be sure you get the information well on time.

As far as your request of being informed of relevant events organised by DGs ENV, CLIMA, ENER, AGRI, SANTE or RTD, we do make efforts to inform the ACs of relevant meetings which come to our attention and which have a close link with the CFP. Also here you could consider looking into the respective DGs websites, in order to identify the events that might be of relevance for you, keeping however in mind that the ACs have to stay within the remit of the CFP. Given the large number of files currently under development in the fisheries domain, it is indeed essential that the ACs stay within the remit of their mandate, carefully assess and prioritise their tasks, taking into account the direct relevance of an issue with the CFP.

Let me thank you for your commitment. While we encourage you to regularly consult our newsletters and website and to follow us on social media, we will continue our efforts to inform you as and where possible of relevant meetings.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Pascale COLSON, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (Pascale.COLSON@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.62.73), who will forward them to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

(e-Signed)
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