

Ms Charlina Vitcheva
Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
European Commission
Rue Josef II 99
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, 22 April 2026

**Subject: Director General's keynote address at the North Sea Advisory Council
General Assembly meeting on the 13th of April 2026**

Dear Ms Vitcheva, Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries,

We would like to sincerely thank you for your participation and delivery of the keynote address at the North Sea Advisory Council's General Assembly meeting held on 13 April 2026. We greatly appreciate that, during what we understand is a very busy period with work on numerous initiatives, you took the time to engage with NSAC members on key management and policy issues affecting North Sea fisheries and ecosystems.

Your presence sent a strong message to our stakeholder community that their commitment to, and engagement in, NSAC matters is valued. Such moments of exchange are crucial in enabling stakeholders on the ground to meet with high-level policymakers, raise issues of importance, and listen to the solutions being proposed at the decision-making level.

Among the various topics highlighted during your address, we particularly appreciated the European Commission's ongoing work on the simplification of the EU acquis. Sustainable fisheries management requires that the regulatory framework remains manageable, realistic, and practically achievable. The NSAC has previously developed advice outlining general observations on simplification¹, with the intention of providing more detailed recommendations addressing specific pieces of EU legislation in the future.

We are therefore particularly interested in hearing about DG MARE's plans to analyse the administrative burden faced by fishers from a bottom-up perspective, starting from the level of the individual fisher, and to develop a systematic approach to simplification in relation to implementation of the new control regulation but also in relation to wider regulatory framework. In this context, NSAC members would welcome receiving further information on this important

¹ https://www.nsrac.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/03-2526-NSAC-Advice-on-Simplification-of-Rules_approved.pdf



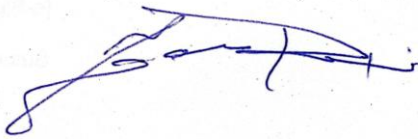
initiative and stand ready to support the Commission in the development, organisation and coordination of stakeholder input to this work.

Additionally, we are currently preparing elaborate contributions to other key DG MARE files, including the Ocean Act and the Vision 2040 for Fisheries and Aquaculture, which will be submitted to the Commission shortly. We also look forward to the results of the evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy and will continue to feed into to this process constructively.

We would once again like to thank you for your valuable contribution to the NSAC General Assembly and for the openness and constructive spirit demonstrated during your engagement with NSAC members.

We look forward to continuing our close and constructive cooperation with DG MARE in support of sustainable and effective fisheries management in the North Sea region, and to maintaining an ongoing dialogue on the key policy developments ahead.

Kind regards,



Peter Ronelöv Olsson
Chairman of the NSAC Executive Committee

