



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR FISHERIES AND MARITIME AFFAIRS

Director-General

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Ms. Aukje Coers
Pelagic RAC secretariat
Treubstraat 17
PO Box 72
2280 AB Rijswijk
The Netherlands

Subject: Participation in Coastal States working group on blue whiting long-term management

Dear Ms. Coers,

Thank you for sending me the Pelagic RAC's request for participation in Coastal States working group on blue whiting long term management.

I regret to inform you this will not be possible. Although we encourage the RACs to participate as active observers in meetings of STECF (and we support ICES' initiatives in this direction) the blue whiting meeting has been convened under the auspices of the blue whiting Coastal States. In this context, it has long been the convention that the participants to scientific meetings are exclusively the scientific experts of the Coastal States concerned.

The European Community will want to discuss with the other coastal states how arrangements for improving transparency of future technical meetings could be improved. However, such arrangements cannot be put in place already for the meeting in question.

You should nevertheless be able to make your views known to the Community scientists attending this meeting. I suggest therefore that the pelagic RAC submits a technical document setting out your views concerning blue whiting management to the EC's designated chair of this meeting, Dr. Morten Vinther (mv@dfu.min.dk). In this way the Community delegation can be kept fully informed. However, while it is clear that the scientists present will make their analysis according to independent and objective criteria, I am sure they will pay close attention to the Pelagic RAC's points of view.

Yours sincerely,

Fokion Fotiadis

C.c.: M. Vinther (mv@dfu.min.dk) (by email)