

Jérôme Broche
Acting Head of Unit – D4 Fisheries control and inspections
Directorate General Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
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BELGIUM

Cc: Stylianos Mitolidis, Acting Director MARE D
MARE AC

Date: 24 May 2024
PelAC reference: 2324PAC63

Subject: Invitation for detailed exchange on the Control Regulation with the NWWAC and PelAC

Dear Mr Broche,

Following the most recent Inter-AC meeting as well as the joint Horizontal Working Group between the Pelagic AC (PelAC) and the North Western waters AC (NWWAC), the Chairs would like to reiterate the ACs' desire for a more detailed exchange on the new Control Regulation.

As transpired at the last Inter-AC meeting, the current format is not deemed suitable to allow for in-depth exchanges and the active interaction with all ACs' members. In addition, we believe holding a dialogue with all ACs simultaneously is not a realistic approach to consulting stakeholders meaningfully with sufficient level of detail. Several members expressed dissatisfaction with not being able to raise their particular questions in relation to presentations made at the second-last Inter-AC meeting. As such, engaging with stakeholders through the Inter-AC forum does not dispense with the need for more comprehensive stakeholder consultations between the Commission services and the full AC membership, particularly in the case of the implementation of the Control Regulation.

The NWWAC and PelAC strongly felt that a joint workshop would provide the best opportunity to work on matters related to the new fisheries control regulation. Having taken well note of the Commission's plea during last year's Inter-AC meeting in October to coordinate requests for Commission attendance at AC meetings as much as possible on this file, we would like to arrange for a joint workshop in Brussels to enable a detailed exchange on the Control Regulation with members of both ACs. We are hoping that by organising ourselves jointly in this manner, we are helping to ensure efficiency in the Commission engagement with ACs on this file.



Co-Funded by the
European Union

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In an effort to reduce duplication, we have sought interest from other ACs to coordinate a joint meeting. The Baltic, Mediterranean, North Sea and South Western Waters Advisory Councils have agreed to support this letter.

We recall that both NWWAC and PelAC have been very active on the Control Regulation over recent years as have other ACs. The NWWAC and PelAC in particular have contributed very detailed recommendations during the co-decision process. We continue to underline the importance the ACs' memberships attribute to this key file.

While we can accept that the Commission lacks the resources to present in detail new pieces of legislation to the eleven individual ACs, both ACs feel the Control Regulation, being new, highly detailed and expected to have a significant impact to both industry and NGO stakeholders, warrants an in-depth exchange between the wider AC membership and the Commission, with sufficient time allocated for Q&A with all members. This would support and prepare ACs for the work ahead and in their ability to contribute to the preparation of delegated acts implementing the Control Regulation by DG MARE.

In light of the above, we would be grateful if the Commission could consider participating in a joint workshop in person in Brussels later this year specifically focussing on the implementation, as well as clarification regarding the timelines for the delegated and implementing acts and the consultation process envisaged by the Commission on these acts for the Advisory Councils. It would also be much appreciated if this workshop would allow attendance for more than a few representatives per AC, to ensure that our members can directly engage on the topic.

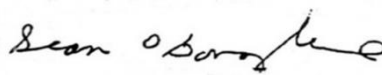
Additionally, we would like to take the opportunity to enquire when a consolidated version of the Control Regulation will be made publicly available.

We thank you in advance for your kind consideration of the above and look forward to your response.

Best regards,



Emiel Brouckaert
NWWAC Chair



Sean O'Donoghue
PelAC Chair



Kenn Skau Fischer
NSAC Chair



Antonio Marzoa Notlevsen
MEDAC Chair



Sergio López
SWWAC Chair



Jarek Zieliński
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