Brussels,
MARE/D1/ (2021)

Subject: Your Ref.:115/2021 - MEDAC discussion paper "Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) in Mediterranean fisheries management. Some food for thoughts"

Dear Mr Buonfiglio,

Thank you for your discussion paper on "Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) in Mediterranean fisheries management. Some food for thoughts".

The Commission takes note of this document with proposals for assessment techniques to supplement the scientific information currently available, which underlies management decisions. I appreciate the MEDAC efforts to launch reflections on a technical basis.

We would like however to point out that these thoughts are not entirely consistent with the MSY objectives, to recall that MSY is embedded in the CFP Regulation and that we are not driving towards a reform.

The "Torre Guaceto" experience shows that the sea can be much more productive if well managed. More fish and larger fish can be caught by fishing less, which is better for fishermen and better for the marine environment. On a local scale, this is confirmed by scientific advice and shows very good prospects for improving livelihoods of fishermen, reducing environmental impacts, across the Mediterranean Sea. This experience reaffirms the Commission's belief that reducing fishing effort towards MSY conditions, as required by the Common Fisheries Policy, will lead to widespread gains for fishermen as well as for the marine environment.

Let me thank you for your contribution and your efforts. Looking forward to our continued cooperation, I invite you, in case of additional questions or comments, to take

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contact with Ms Pascale Colson, coordinator of the ACs (Pascale.Colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273), who will forward them to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA