



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels  
MARE.D.1/ACD

Dear M. Marzoa,

Thank you for your letter expressing your opinion on management measures and socio-economic aspects in the Mediterranean Sea. Your contribution is timely and most welcomed as further discussions on this important topic will take place in 2023 at the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF).

Your opinion will also be taken into account in our discussions within the EU after the upcoming adoption of a package in relation to the implementation of our Common Fishery Policy as well as an ambitious Marine Action Plan and an Energy Transition Initiative. As mentioned in my recent letter (Ares (2023)261605), 2023 will be a year to debate our European policies and how they can shape better biodiversity protection, better stocks recovery and better resilience of coastal communities.

Having said that, I fully agree with you that best available science must be taken into account when planning restoration, management measures and their socio-economic impacts. In 2022, STECF demonstrated the importance of continuing the management measures in the Mediterranean, reiterating that a crucial objective, as mentioned in your advice, is “to establish a balance between employment and fish stocks, which is also in the sector’s interest”.

Until sustainable levels of biomass are achieved for all stocks, including hake and deep-water shrimp species where increase of selectivity is crucial, our fruitful cooperation and joint work with all Mediterranean stakeholders will be key to identify concrete means to reduce energy consumption by gear and by fishing vessel types in order to support the sector to shift to cleaner energy sources and thus boosting its resilience and profitability during this transition.

M. Antonio Marzoa

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c/o Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari, Forestali e del Turismo

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Finally, let me assure you that the EU is engaging vigorous efforts to foster human capital and skills, to attract young people into the fisheries sector through educational and communication measures, to grant start-up support to young fishers, to improve safety and working conditions on board fishing vessels, and to improve gender balance as well as to facilitate labour relations involving all relevant stakeholders.

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,

Charlina VITCHEVA

c.c.: Ms Andersson Pench, Lainé, Focquet, Dragon, Peralta, M. Nikolian