EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

RACMED
Prot. N° 26/CE
del 11/02/15

Brussels,
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MEDAC
Mr Giampaolo Buonfiglio
Chairperson
Via Nazionale 243
I - 00184 Rome
Italy

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down a prohibition on driftnet fisheries

Yr reference: 202/AV

Dear Mr Buonfiglio,

Thank you for the MEDAC opinion on the proposal for a Regulation laying down a prohibition on driftnet fisheries.

Regarding the socio-economic impact of the proposal and the impact of existing driftnet activities on protected species, prior to the proposal there was a thorough impact assessment. A wide public consultation was addressed to all interested stakeholders and the Member States. This was complemented by a number of studies and analyses. The potential socio-economic effects of the ban and the impact of the driftnet activities on protected species were then analysed on the basis of the data which had been made available to the Commission. However, it seems that not all stakeholders and Member States were able to provide, at that time, detailed information about the use of driftnets, their impact on protected species and the potential socio-economic impact of a ban. This may have prevented the Commission from having a complete picture of the situation on some regional driftnet fisheries.

Taking into account the aforementioned circumstances, further information is being sought by the Commission, in an effort to have a more comprehensive view of the situation. Since the proposal is currently before the Council and Parliament, it is for to these institutions to work on the final text. In the meantime, the Commission will facilitate the debates by putting at the disposal of the co-legislators all necessary elements for such a process, including any additional information received from MEDAC. The concerns expressed by the various stakeholders will continue to be assessed in the coming weeks in parallel to the debates that will take place with the European Parliament and the Council.

Thank you again for your continued interest and constructive input. If you have any questions on this reply, you may contact Ms Evangelia Georgitsi, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.295.04.43).

Yours sincerely,



Lowri Evans