MEDAC
MEDITERRANEAN
ADVISORY
COUNCIL

Ref.:109/2023

Rome, 28 June 2023

Charlina Vitcheva

Director General
DG MARE (Maritime Affairs and Fisheries)

Dear Director General,

During the WG1 meeting held on June 27 in Larnaka, the Communication from the Commission to the EP and the Council on Sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2024 {SWD(2023) 172 final} was addressed.

The debate focused on some urgent further clarifications about two particular topics.

The first one is related to the Landing Obligation (LO): "*The CFP Regulation recognises the difficulty in implementing the landing obligation in mixed fisheries where more than one species is present, where different species are likely to be caught in the same fishing operation, and where tools such as quota swaps are available*." In this sense, it would be important to understand the scope related to the foreseen activities of the STECF: "*The Member States and the Commission work in 2023 with the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) to review the exemptions to the landing obligation to improve data*". Therefore, the MEDAC kindly asks the effect on the future implementation of the LO, considering the Regulation amending the Fishery Control Council Regulation (EC) No.1224/2009 as regards Article 13 "*Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM): Union catching vessels which pose a high risk of noncompliance with the LO.*"

Moreover, in the Communication, the part related to the EU Western Mediterranean MAP stated that: "*The Commission has also launched work on each aspect of sustainability with a view to reporting in July 2024 on the results and impact of the plan on the stocks and the fisheries concerned*." The MEDAC kindly asks for more clarification about this deadline (July 2024), considering that the EU West Med MAP will expire in 2024, and then results of the MAP implementation will not be available before 2025.

In order to be able to send a contribution in due time (August 31), we kindly ask to provide this additional information in a short delay.

Kind regards,

Antonio Marzoa Notlevsen

Chair

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Co-funded by the European Union