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Rome, 16 June 2021

To Charlina Vitcheva
Director General
Directorate-General for
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
European Commission

Object: Request of collaboration with the DG EMPL involved in the social and economic sustainability in the fishery sector in the Mediterranean.

Dear Director General,

On 15th April, the MEDAC Working Group 5 (WG5) meeting on socio-economic aspects in the fisheries sector was held online. The WG5 focused on the need to examine and verify the possibility that factors other than fisheries are negatively influencing the sustainability of resources. Then, the MEDAC, in agreement with DG MARE, started a collaboration with DG ENV in the context of the WG3 on Green deal. However, in order to start already analysing the environmental issues, the MEDAC took advantage of the expertise of the researchers who collaborate with, asking them to carry out studies/research addressing these issues. Then, in order to better understand the socioeconomic impacts in the fishery sector related to the environmental aspects, and to provide a comprehensive overview of the state of art of the sector, the publication on "*The EU fishing fleet 2020: Trends and economic results*" has been shared with members. Moreover, the MEDAC just launched the consultation to members about the *"Communication of the Commission to EP and Council: Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2022".*

Considering the ongoing process, the MEDAC is asking to DG MARE to continuate the interesting collaboration with DG ENV and start a new one with DG EMPL with the aim of launching a long-term programme which places social and economic sustainability at the heart of the discussions, envisaging structured intervention which can be financed through the various funding lines put in place by the EC, taking into account also the ongoing consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on fishing enterprises.

Giampaolo Buonfiglio
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