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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Fisheries Policy Mediterranean and Black Sea
Director

Brussels,
MARE.D/3 ADV ARES(2018)

Mr. Giampaolo Buonfiglio
Chairman
Mediterranean Advisory Council
Via XX Settembre 20
c/o MIPAAF
00187 Roma
ITALY

Subject: **Post-2020 EU funding for fisheries and maritime sectors- Request for modifications in the budget for interpretation and translation costs – Item E in the Advisory Council financial budget**

Your Ref.: *115/2018 of 20 April 2018*

Dear Mr Buonfiglio,

Thank you for the above-mentioned letter by which you raise the question of interpretation and translation costs in MEDAC and ask for an increase in the EU contribution to MEDAC given the high number of working languages it has to cope with.

Let me first assure you that the role played by Advisory Councils (ACs) in the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy is key for the Commission. In this regard, having a large and regular participation of all members to Working Groups and Focus Groups is essential for the quality and completeness of the advices we receive. I am aware that proper access to interpretation during meetings as well as to translated documents is a condition for a large participation of members to meetings and for the adoption of decisions by consensus. This is why translation and interpretation costs have always been eligible and considered as a priority for support.

I recognize that the MEDAC situation with 8 working languages in total is particular from this point of view, and that it should not suffer from this situation. It is true that up to now, we have always granted the same amount to each AC. However, with nearly all ACs being now operational, we agree that this approach should be re-assessed in order to be able to stick to each particular situation. The new EMFF and the upcoming new programming period will be a good opportunity to launch this reflexion.

Let me thank you again for your cooperation and constructive input. As far as post-2020 EU funding is concerned, your answers to our questions on fisheries and maritime sectors were highly appreciated. We very much look forward to our continued cooperation and invite you to take contact with Ms Pascale Colson, as coordinator of the ACs

(pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273) should you have any question on this reply.

Yours sincerely,

Veronika VEITS

c.c.: Mrs. Roller, Zito, Georgitsi, Colson, de Diego de laVega, Lainé

Electronically signed on 29/05/2018 10:07 (UTC+02) in accordance with article 4.2 (Validity of electronic documents) of Commission Decision 2004/563