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Rome, 17 October 2019

Virginijus Sinkevicius
Commissioner-designate
Environment and Oceans

Dear Mr Sinkevicius,

We followed the hearing that took place on 3rd October with great interest and we particularly appreciated the fact that you reiterated the role and importance of the Advisory Councils during your replies to the questions put to you by the MEPs. The Advisory Councils are a platform that includes and represents both the professional fisheries sector (small-scale fisheries, the industrial fleet and the sector's trade unions) as well as other interest groups, such as environmental organisations and recreational fishers' associations. The Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC) currently has 49 members that operate within the eight Mediterranean Member States of the European Union as well as at international level.

As you have probably already been informed, the fisheries sector in the Mediterranean is going through a very delicate phase, due both to the need to recover overexploited fish stocks and to the socio-economic aspects of a sector that is increasingly under pressure. It is, without doubt, necessary to adopt an ecosystem approach, enhancing the involvement of stakeholders in order to pursue the objective of sustainable fisheries.

The MEDAC congratulates you on your appointment, wishing you all the best for your challenging task. Please consider us as working alongside you, we hope you will allow us to provide any support that you may require.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Giampaolo Buonfiglio
MEDAC Chair

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