

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA

Brussels, 04 AUGUST 2015  
MARE D2/SSc/ 32 65 477

**Subject: Invitation to attend the scientific and technical seminar on small pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic Sea**

Dear Mr Buonfiglio,

As already anticipated<sup>1</sup>, I have the pleasure to invite you to participate in the scientific and technical seminar on small pelagic fisheries in the Adriatic Sea.

Several difficulties have been experienced in recent months to perform reliable stock assessments and to provide scientific advice on MSY ranges and related conservation reference points for the stocks of sardine and anchovy in the region. Moreover, parallel processes are ongoing at the level of different scientific bodies (STECF, GFCM-SAC) and information is sometimes fragmented.

We believe it is necessary to have a discussion on those issues, with a view to ensuring that all those who have been part or who will be part of the forthcoming work on stock assessment may have an opportunity to share information, data and methodologies.

I would like to stress the importance of this topic for the Commission. In light of the worrying situation of most Mediterranean stocks<sup>2</sup>, the preparation of Commission proposals for EU multiannual plans in the Mediterranean Sea is a priority for our Commissioner. This is reflected by the actions carried out in the last year, notably for the preparation of a multiannual plan for the management of small pelagic stocks in the North Adriatic Sea. MEDAC has also played an important role of consultation and has

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<sup>1</sup> Our email reference Ares(2015)3041036 of 20.07.2015.

<sup>2</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council - Consultation on the fishing opportunities for 2016 under the Common Fisheries Policy, COM(2015)239 of 2.6.2015.

Mr Giampaolo BUONFIGLIO  
Chairperson  
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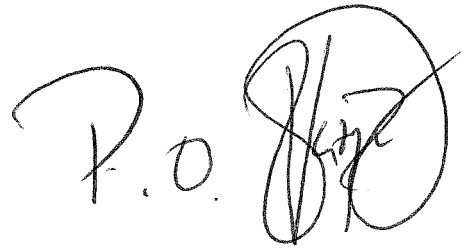
devoted a lot of work to this issue, in particular within its Focus Group dedicated to the Adriatic.

It is now time to make the most of all the work done so far and to identify possible persisting gaps, solutions and ways forward.

The meeting will be held on Friday 18 September 2015, in the premises of DG MARE. A tentative agenda is enclosed.

Should you require any further information, the contact persons in charge of the organisation of the meeting are Ms Amanda Perez ([Amanda.PEREZ-PERERA@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Amanda.PEREZ-PERERA@ec.europa.eu)) and Mr Xavier Vazquez ([Francisco-Javier.VAZQUEZ-ALVAREZ@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Francisco-Javier.VAZQUEZ-ALVAREZ@ec.europa.eu)). I would be grateful if you could confirm your participation to them.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Gambs', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn circle.

Hubert GAMBS  
Director

*Encl.:*            *Tentative agenda*

*Cc.:*            - *Ms Rosa Caggiano*  
                  - *Permanent Representations of Croatia, Italy and Slovenia*