



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/ (2016)

Subject: Ministerial conference – 27 April 2016 - Brussels

Dear President,

I would like to thank you for the organisation of the high-level seminar held in Catania on 9 and 10 February. The seminar was successful and led to a wide agreement on the need to act rapidly to stop the decline of the stocks and ensure the sustainability of the fisheries sector in the Mediterranean Sea.

As I announced during the seminar in Catania, I would like to invite you hereby to a ministerial conference on Mediterranean fisheries on 27 April in Brussels.


In view of the next GFCM session in May 2016, this conference will be an opportunity to discuss the joint challenges we face in the Mediterranean and to build a common agreement at ministerial level with third countries on further actions needed to ensure the sustainability of the fisheries sector.

Redressing the situation in the Mediterranean is one of Commissioner Vella's key priorities for the coming years. Despite the management processes in place through the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy and in regional fisheries management organisations, the situation remains critical.

In order to safeguard the growth base of a key part of our blue economy and thereby ensure the long term socio-economic viability of our fisheries sector, there is a real urgency to take concrete action in the short and medium-term.

For your information you will find attached a draft agenda of the conference, complemented by guidance sent to Ministers for the preparation of their interventions.

Yours sincerely,


João AGUIAR MACHADO *obs*
S. DEYPERE

ENC: Agenda and Guidance

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