



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Fisheries Policy Mediterranean and Black Sea

Brussels
MARE.D/VV/Ares(2019)

Mrs Sally CLINK
Executive Secretary of the BSAC
sc@bsac.dk
copy to all ACs

Subject: ACs request for flexibility in our budget management – receipt of instalments

Dear Mrs Clink,

Thank you for your joint letter dated 3rd December 2019 asking for flexibility in the management of operational grants with Advisory Councils (ACs). In the letter, you request to have the two first instalments paid in one go at the time of the signature of the grant. The payment of the balance would be done once the AC has provided a final statement of expenditure certified by an auditor, as well as a final report.

I am pleased to inform you that the Commission can agree with this proposals, specifically to the payment of the two first pre-financings at the time of the signature of the grant agreement, meaning that the Commission would pay directly 80% of the grant at the time of the signature of the grant.

However, to avoid the risk of having recovery orders at the time of final payment (when the amount actually spent is less than the pre-financing paid), we will stop granting the same amount to each AC but instead take into account each Advisory Council's individual financing needs. We would distribute the grant amounts in accordance with the amount actually spent during the last three years, the number of members and/or of languages to be covered.

This is to be applied from 2020 with the new agreements to be signed, and you will soon be informed of the amount to be granted to each AC.

Let me thank you for this joint letter aiming at lightening the work of the ACs and of the Commission. I can also confirm you that we intend to hold a workshop on financial aspects in spring 2020. We will let you know the date as soon as it is determined, and would be grateful for each AC to let us know by end of January which points they would like to raise.

I look forward to our continued fruitful cooperation and invite you to take contact with Ms Pascale Colson (Pascale.Colson@ec.europa.eu; + 32 2 29 56273) should you have any further questions on this reply.

Yours sincerely,

Veronika VEITS
Acting Director