



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE.D.1/LB

Subject: MEDAC Advice on the new proposals of FRA in the Mediterranean Sea

Dear Mr Marzoa Notlevsen,

I would like to thank the Mediterranean Advisory Council for the advice 49/2023 in relation to the establishment of new Fisheries Restricted Areas in the Mediterranean Sea, as these are essential management tools for the sustainable management of fisheries resources.

I took good note of your concerns and I want to reassure you that the European Commission attributes great importance to the proper consultation of stakeholders and the socio-economic assessment of the impact of any potential new FRA. We have extensively discussed this topic over the years in the MEDAC, and this has led to the development of the EU proposal for minimum standards for FRAs, that has been adopted in the GFCM last year.

Furthermore, in the debate on the potential revision of the 1000 m deep-water FRA towards 800 m or 600 m, the EU has requested that the GFCM performs first pilot studies in each subregion of the Mediterranean, to properly assess the socio-economic impact of such proposals. As a result, last week, the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee recognised the importance of obtaining meaningful data on the socio-economic impacts on the fisheries concerned of possibly changing the limits of the current bottom trawling ban from 1 000 m to 800 m in the Mediterranean Sea, and validated the EU request for launching four pilot studies, one for each subregion, in data-rich areas. These pilots will be included in the GFCM work program for next year.

Mr Antonio Marzoa Notlevsen
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c/o Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari, Forestali e del Turismo
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I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation, with a view to achieving benefits for the marine environment and for the fishing communities who depend on it. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia RUBECK via the functional mailbox of the Advisory Councils MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

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