



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/D3/IP

Dear Mr Lopez,

Thank you very much for your advice on the Vision 2040 for fisheries and aquaculture, of which we acknowledge the receipt. We appreciate your contribution as this touches upon important issues and it will be taken into account in the process of developing the initiative.

At the moment, following the evaluation of the CFP Regulation, we are in the process of reflecting on our long-term Vision for a resilient, competitive and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture sector with a 2040 perspective.

We focus on four main axes: supply, demand, labour force and “tools” to ensure that all key aspects are covered in this Vision.

When it comes to “**supply**”, the Vision will touch upon aspects regarding sustainable sourcing of aquatic food, economic performance of the sector in a way that it can sustain its operations within limits that ensure the environmental sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture, modernization and energy transition.

Regarding “**demand**”, the Vision will look into the consumers’ demand for fish, including evolving consumption patterns and consumer information in a way that it ensures that consumers have the right means to make sustainable choices, stemming from the traceability and labelling of aquatic products.

On the **labour** force, the Commission will need to reflect on pressing needs, including the generational renewal and re-skilling of the sector and opportunities for diversification, in line with the ambition to maintain thriving coastal and island communities.

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Finally, we need to ensure that **tools & infrastructure** (vessels, farms, processing plants) that optimize profits and working conditions are available. Access to financing opportunities, simplification and innovation will also be part of our reflections.

At the same time, the Vision will need to take into account **megatrends** that affect all economic sectors and require adaptability of the sector: Demographic ageing, work/life balance, climate change, geopolitical shifts, consumption patterns, technological advances.

The points that you have raised on the **importance of a strong scientific basis for policy-making**, including continued support to scientific institutions, are duly noted. Similarly, the need to ensure a **level playing field between EU production and imports**, including through transparency and traceability, is well recognised.

The contribution also highlights important aspects related to **maritime spatial planning**, including transparency across different maritime uses, as well as the need to support the sector in adapting to climate change, building on existing knowledge and experience. The observations on emerging challenges such as **invasive species** are equally acknowledged.

The Commission also takes note of the considerations related to **generational renewal**, including the importance of economic viability, legal certainty and regulatory stability, as well as the broader issue of the attractiveness of the sector. Related points concerning value creation and working conditions, including health and safety, are duly recognised.

Finally, the contribution underlines the importance of supporting the **energy transition** of the sector through appropriate financing and enabling regulatory frameworks.

All these elements will be carefully considered in the ongoing reflection, alongside input received from other stakeholders, in view of developing a balanced and forward-looking Vision for 2040.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia Rubeck, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

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