



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE.B.2/MV

Dear Mr. Rodriguez,

I would like to thank you for the valuable input of the Long Distance Advisory Council in view of the next annual meeting of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). I fully share your views on the need to consolidate cooperative relationships in the Indian Ocean to create a favourable ground for collaboration and understanding and to reduce the existing gaps between the actors involved in this fishery.

Conscious of the need to promote sustainable fishery in the area of competence of the IOTC and the resilience of the fishery sector, the EU has presented an ambitious set of proposals for adoption at the annual meeting. The proposals tabled by the EU address the four most urgent aspects of the functioning of the organisation:

- a) A revised proposal on drifting fish aggregating devices (DFADs), with the objective of adopting by consensus a new and strong management measure;
- b) A multiannual catch reduction plan for the three tropical tuna species aimed at bringing the level of catches in line with the recommendation by the Scientific Committee of the IOTC;
- c) A proposal for a High Seas Border Inspection Scheme that would strengthen the IOTC ability to fight against IUU;
- d) A reform of the compliance process to make it more efficient and to allow a real focus and follow-up on the most serious non-compliance issues.

We trust that the other parties are ready to engage and negotiate in good faith. I want to reassure you that, as in the past, the EU delegation will spare no efforts to try and get a positive outcome with the overall aim of promoting the sustainability of the stocks in the Indian Ocean and the resilience and livelihood of the fishery sector.

Yours faithfully,

Charlina VITCHEVA

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