



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE/CV

Dear Mr López,

Dear Mr Marzoa,

Dear Ms Benites,

Thank you for your request and your continued interest in achieving a sustainable energy transition for EU Fisheries and Aquaculture together with DG MARE and the Energy Transition Partnership.

The Commission's Communication on the Energy Transition of the EU Fisheries and Aquaculture <sup>(1)</sup> sector aims to enhance the sector's resilience by reducing its dependence on fossil fuels and minimizing its greenhouse gas emissions. I am pleased to inform you that the proposed actions are progressing well. The work completed through the Energy Transition Partnership for the EU fisheries and aquaculture (ETP) over the past year has been paving the way for the development of a roadmap for the energy transition of EU Fisheries and aquaculture towards climate neutrality by 2050, to be published by end 2025.

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(<sup>1</sup>) [Communication from the Commission: On the Energy Transition of the EU Fisheries and Aquaculture sector - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

Mr. Ivan López  
Chairman Long Distance Advisory Council  
[ivan.lopez@pesqueraancora.com](mailto:ivan.lopez@pesqueraancora.com)

Mr. Antonio Marzoa Noglevsen  
Chairman MEDAC  
[presidente@med-ac.eu](mailto:presidente@med-ac.eu)

Mr Brian Thomsen  
Chairman of the AAC  
[brian@danskakvakultur.dk](mailto:brian@danskakvakultur.dk)

The three workshops <sup>(2)</sup> held in the context of the Energy Transition Partnership in the past months have been crucial in identifying and discussing the sector's challenges, and questions were raised in relation to fleet capacity. In that regard, fishing capacity ceilings are essential to prevent overfishing, by setting an upper boundary to the total volume and power of the fleet. However, Member States can already address their needs under the current framework. For most Member States there is a margin between the capacity ceiling and the actual fishing capacity. That margin can be allocated to the fleet in need.

In addition, in order to better understand the future needs, the Commission initiated a comprehensive study on the EU's fishing fleet evolution, challenges, and future prospects, which will feed into the evaluation of the CFP and the preparation of the energy transition roadmap.

We remain committed to keeping all stakeholders, and notably the Advisory Councils, informed about the process and content.

Moreover, to ensure effective outreach and a participatory approach to developing the roadmap, we launched the Energy Transition Partnership Assistance Mechanism (ETP-AM) on the 27th of September this year. The ETP-AM will support the Commission in structuring the dialogue within the ETP with stakeholders. As you know, part of the ETP-AM tasks will include the set-up of the ETP support group, announced at the launch event of the Energy Transition Partnership in 2023 <sup>(3)</sup>. This support group will aim to proactively collect stakeholders' specific inputs to the roadmap. The support group will consist of 10 coordinators each representing a stakeholder category <sup>(4)</sup> and will be assisted by the secretariat of the ETP-AM which includes four experts to guide and report on the conversations within each of the working groups. A detailed Q&A will be published soon on the ETP webpage to further explain its functioning.

As regard to support to the selected coordinators, I would like to emphasise that the support group coordinator role will be well assisted by both the four support group experts provided by the ETP-AM and the secretariat of the ETP-AM. Administrative and logistic support will be provided to the coordinators of the support group, by taking care of part of the administrative and logistics matters, such as document production, meeting organizations, etc. Furthermore, travel and accommodation for the support group coordinator's annual in-person meetings will be covered by our ETP assistance mechanism. This will not induce any costs on the coordinator's side. Moreover, let me reiterate that one of the main reasons why we launched the ETP-AM was to increase the organisation capacity and ensure better representativeness and accessibility to the ETP meetings and events.

We recognise that translation is a key enabler. The support group working group meetings will be facilitated by software translation on the online channels and we will try to ensure direct interpretation whenever possible. Rest assured that translation of

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<sup>(2)</sup> [The workshops - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>(3)</sup> [High-level conference Joining Forces for the Energy Transition in EU Fisheries and Aquaculture - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>(4)</sup> SSCF, LSF, DWF, Inland aquaculture, offshore aquaculture, Shipbuilding, NGOs, Research and Academia, Processing industry, Ports.

documents in some languages will also be facilitated. However, the role of the Support Group coordinator involves regular exchanges with the ETP-AM secretariat team and DG MARE services, which would be facilitated by proficiency in English.

I am happy to note that during the past year we have seen the active engagement of several Advisory Councils (AC) in the energy transition of the sector and in the ETP, both through the advice and recommendations you shared with us so far and your participation in some of our ETP workshops. We truly appreciate this engagement and the quality of the contributions. We therefore encourage you to continue engaging with the ETP, to contribute to the work ahead and be an active part of the change in the sector. While understand that the timeline may be tight, the ACs may continue to send their recommendations directly to the Commission services. All recommendations will need to reach us before the end of Q2 2025, to ensure that we gather and consolidate all your inputs when drafting the roadmap and in view of the adoption procedure that follows.

The Commission and the members of the support group of the ETP will continue to be available and willing to participate in the meetings of the ACs to inform and provide feedback on the work being done. The ETP-AM will also aim at building a strong connection and synergies with the ACs where relevant.

We acknowledge that the lack of practical technological and supply solutions for alternative energies related to the decarbonisation is an issue, and continue addressing this through studies, such as the one on available technologies, costs, and benefits <sup>(5)</sup>, and through research and innovation initiatives, such as the energy efficient vessels and low-carbon fishing techniques promoted under the Mission Ocean calls. We are also following up on a €2.2 million pilot project developing a demonstrator vessel for testing energy transition technologies <sup>(6)</sup>. Moreover, we are committed to continuously raising awareness about the viable techniques by periodically updating our compendium of best practices for the energy transition in the sector <sup>(7)</sup>.

Regarding the participation of DG MARE and its role within the assistance mechanism, the ETP-AM is designed to support and amplify our efforts in broadening conversations with an extensive array of stakeholders. This is to ensure an inclusive and participatory approach to shaping the roadmap. DG MARE will take an active part in all the meetings and collaborate intensively with the support group members and the Assistance Mechanism's secretariat team. Be assured that we will maintain a constant presence throughout all the processes and in coordinating stakeholders' inputs.

Finally, I would like to inform you that to enhance user experience and visibility of the ETP, the Energy Transition Partnership webpage will now be hosted on the Maritime

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<sup>(5)</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/a8d20a8c-39eb-11ef-87a1-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

<sup>(6)</sup> [https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/pilot-project-fostering-energy-transition-fisheries-sector-demonstrator-fishing-vessel\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/pilot-project-fostering-energy-transition-fisheries-sector-demonstrator-fishing-vessel_en)

<sup>(7)</sup> [Best practices on energy transition in fisheries and aquaculture - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

Forum <sup>(8)</sup>. The ETP-AM will ensure that the webpage remains a central point of information for Energy transition related information for EU Fisheries and aquaculture.

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](mailto:MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu).

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

c.c.: Alexandre Rodriguez [alexandre.rodriquez@ldac.eu](mailto:alexandre.rodriquez@ldac.eu);  
Marta de Lucas, Manuela Iglesias [manuela.iglesias@ldac.eu](mailto:manuela.iglesias@ldac.eu);  
[secretaria@ldac.eu](mailto:secretaria@ldac.eu);  
Rosa Caggiano [r.caggiano@med-ac.eu](mailto:r.caggiano@med-ac.eu);  
[segreteria@med-ac.eu](mailto:segreteria@med-ac.eu); [admin@med-ac.eu](mailto:admin@med-ac.eu); Cynthia Benites  
[cynthia.benites@aac-europe.org](mailto:cynthia.benites@aac-europe.org); [secretariat@aac-europe.org](mailto:secretariat@aac-europe.org);

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<sup>(8)</sup> [Energy Transition Partnership - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/energy-transition-partnership/)