



DRAFT AGENDA
BILATERAL MARE-LDAC SESSION
CONSULTATION ON EU STRATEGY ON FISHERIES EXTERNAL ACTION

Venue: Hotel Puerta América

Address : Avenida de América, 41, Chamartín, Madrid

Metro : Avenida de América / Cartagena

Wednesday 21st of January 2026

09:30h – 13:30h CEST

09:30h

- 1. Welcome by the General Secretary of Spain - Mrs. Isabel Artime.**
- 2. Opening statement by MARE Director B - Mr. Fernando Andresen Guimaraes.**

10:00h

- 3. How can the EU Strategy for Fisheries External Action deliver on the European Ocean Pact objectives?**

3.1. Policy Coherence: within fisheries and beyond – guiding questions for discussion:

- How can the EU ensure that all relevant instruments — bilateral and multilateral fisheries agreements, RFMOs, development cooperation, trade measures and diplomacy — work in a mutually reinforcing way to contribute to sustainable fisheries development?*
- What type of region-specific approaches can be developed? What kind of strategic partnerships could be established?*
- What could be the EU action in promoting RFMOs role in the implementation of the BBNJ agreement?*
- Beyond advocating for ILO labour standards and the EU regulation banning products made with forced labour, what other measures could upgrade working conditions and social sustainability in the fisheries sector worldwide?*

11:00h-11:20h HEALTH BREAK

11:20

3.2. Market and Trade Power: Leveraging the EU's Global Influence

- *Presentation and discussion of current trade and trade-related instruments.*
- *Would a balanced combination of the following be effective:*
 - (i) strengthening social and environmental requirements to comply with international fisheries obligations;*
 - (ii) aligning or calibrating trade arrangements according to such compliance; and*
 - (iii) supporting capacity building in partner countries to meet these standards?*
- *Should the EU take into account different levels of development when applying such measures?*
- *What alternative or complementary approaches could further strengthen the sustainability and resilience of international seafood value chains?*

12:20h

3.3. Transparency: Ensuring Fair Competition and Accountability

- *Do you consider that compliance with flag, coastal, port and market State responsibilities remains the foundation for a global level playing field? Which additional elements should be taken into account?*
- *Do you agree that enhancing transparency obligations is key to ensuring compliance and fairness in global fisheries?*
- *Are flags of convenience, IUU fishing, transshipment on the high seas, and insufficient implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) the main issues of concern, or would you identify others?*
- *Would promoting international uptake of EU control rules and new monitoring technologies be effective levers for greater transparency?*
- *How can the EU best address two key drivers of unfair competition:*
 - (a) capacity-enhancing public subsidies, and*
 - (b) lack of transparency on the ultimate beneficial ownership of vessels and companies?*
- *What mechanisms could the EU use to trigger international cooperation in these areas, and which fora (e.g. FAO, WTO, OECD, RFMOs, UN) would be most relevant?*
- *Suitability of incorporating fishing joint ventures into the external dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy.*

13:20h

Summary of conclusions and recommendations: next steps

13:30h - CLOSE OF THE MEETING