



Att. Charlina Vitcheva

Director General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

DG MARE - Joseph II, 99 – B-1000 Brussels (Belgium)

R-07-Ej.18 (2024-2025)/WG4-WG5

Subject: Proposal of using the Global Gateway programme for European fisheries investments in third countries (aka “joint ventures”)

Madrid, 10th of December 2024

Dear Director General Vitcheva,

On 16 October, in the LDAC Working Group 5 meeting on horizontal issues, Ms. Isabelle Garzon presented the GLOBAL GATEWAY programme, explaining the funding opportunities it offered.

Within our Advisory Council we have as members organizations representing European fisheries investments in third countries (henceforth joint ventures), and we feel it is worth exploring whether they might fit in, be compatible with and enhance with the GLOBAL GATEWAY programme, provided they are subject to sustainability criteria, operate transparently and do not compete with local artisanal fisheries.

The topic of the role of joint ventures was lately discussed in a report published by the University of Vigo¹ as well as, with a focus on African countries, in a dedicated LDAC-CFFA seminar held in Berlin in May 2024². Joint ventures are EU fishing investments combining the presence of fishing vessels operating in the EEZ of third countries plus in land infrastructures/installations on those countries, in areas that are objective of the GLOBAL GATEWAY.

In view of the above, and as a first step, we wish to request a meeting with the appropriate units from DG MARE and DG INTPA in order to get a better in-depth understanding of how the Global Gateway programme works, and under what conditions support could be made available for the fishing joint ventures in accordance with the objectives of this programme.

We look forward to hearing from you and/or your services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ivan Lopez van der Veen', is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Iván López van der Veen – LDAC Chair

¹ “*Estimating the Economic and Social Impact of Spanish owned Fishing Joint Ventures*”

Authors: Ardán Chair/Vigo Free Trade Zone Consortium/University of Vigo

https://www.zfv.es/ardan/informes/Impacto_Economico_Social_EmpresasMixtasPesquerasEspa%C3%B1olas.pdf

² Report from LDAC-CFFA Seminar on EU fishing investments in third countries: Africa case studies

https://ldac.eu/images/EN_LDAC_Report_seminario_Berl%C3%ADn_2024_compressed.pdf