



## LONG DISTANCE FLEET ADVISORY COUNCIL

Att.: Ms. Lena ANDERSON PENCH  
Director  
DG MARE - Maritime Affairs and Fisheries  
JII99, B-1000 BRUSSELS

Madrid, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022

### **Subject: DG MARE clarification on ECA participation in the LDAC Working Group 5 meeting**

Dear Ms. Anderson Pench,

The LDAC would like to stress the importance of debate and exchange of views among all its members and other institutions, even more so, on issues related to one of our main goals, as is the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

As you know, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) recently published a special report on this important matter<sup>1</sup>. As agreed by our members in previous meetings, the LDAC included a presentation and discussion about this report in the agenda of our upcoming Working Group 5 (horizontal issues) meeting on 27 October 2022. The ECA kindly accepted to give this presentation.

We note with concern an oral request coming from DG MARE to delete this point from the agenda, under the pretext that it might be presented to all the Advisory Councils in a future Inter-AC meeting.

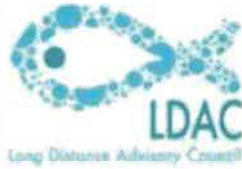
In light of this request, we seek clarification from DG MARE on the rationale and legal basis for this intervention into the daily operations of an Advisory Council (i.e., call for a meetings and development of an agenda). We also seek clarification vis-à-vis the institutions with which Advisory Councils are entitled to engage.

The LDAC attaches great importance to inform on an equal manner its members on issues at the core of our mandate so they can contribute to the achievement of the overarching objectives of the CFP and to collectively meeting the principles of good governance laid down in Article 3 of that Regulation.

While we do agree that the recent report of the ECA also has some relevance for other Advisory Councils, we believe that this should not preclude our ability to discuss it among our members

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<sup>1</sup> European Court of Auditors, Special report 20/2022: EU action to combat illegal fishing – Control systems in place but weakened by uneven checks and sanctions by Member States, <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=61941>.



and of the ECA to present it to relevant stakeholders; in particular considering that Inter-AC meeting participation is restricted to 3-4 persons per Advisory Council.

We are confident that DG MARE attaches great importance to the contribution of Advisory Councils in meeting the objectives of the CFP through, inter alia, their involvement from conception to implementation of EU policies; as such, we trust that you will understand how critical it is for the LDAC and its members to be informed and discuss the outcome of the audit carried out by the ECA on the EU action to combat illegal fishing.

Yours sincerely,



Iván López van der Veen  
LDAC Chair

Julien Daudu  
LDAC Working Group 5 Chair