



Att.: Mr Bernhard Friess
Acting Director General
DG MARE
JII99, B-1000 BRUSSELS

Madrid, 27th of May 2020
Reference: R-07-20/WG5

Subject: Request of a brochure on COVID-19 pandemic for European fishing fleets

Dear General Director,

In my quality of Chair of the Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC), I would like to convey the concern of our members about the COVID-19 pandemic that is threatening the health, safety and well-being of the crews. As a matter of priority, the LDAC considers fundamental that the European authorities provide relevant information for the protection of fishermen that operate across the seas.

We are aware of various guidelines already published by different UN Organisations, as well as EU regulations and directives on protection, travel restrictions, and other measures for the fishers.

Nevertheless, we consider extremely useful and practical to count with a specific and clear leaflet, in different languages, with visuals, simplified and easy-to-use information to be distributed between all the EU fishing fleet including, inter alia, the following key points on how to proceed:

- Before the departure (ensure early detection, travel restrictions, protection measures...)
- On board and during the fishing trip (prevention, ways to act in suspicion of a positive case...)
- In case of a positive case on board (quarantine, need of urgent medication, repatriation...)

This brochure will help the fishing vessel owners and crews to follow standardised procedures and to serve as a concrete and complete guideline to all the European Fishing Fleets.

We trust our recommendation can be translated into concrete actions for the benefit of our fishermen and remain at your disposal to facilitate and assist in developing such brochure.

Yours sincerely,

Iván López van der Veen
Chair of the Long Distance Advisory Council

Contact details for correspondence:
C/ Doctor Fleming 7, 2ºD. 28036 Madrid (SPAIN)
Phone: + 34 91 432 36 23 Fax: + 34 91 432 36 24 e-mail: secretaria@ldac.eu