



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE-D3/PC/mbe/Ares (2020)

Mr. Ivan López
Chairman Long Distance Advisory
Council
c/del Doctor Fleming 7, 2º Dcha
E- 28036 Madrid
SPAIN

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

Your ref: R-07-20/WG5

Dear Mr. López,

Thank you for your letter dated last 27 May concerning your request to DG MARE to produce a leaflet on how to prevent, detect and manage positive cases of COVID-19 on board of fishing vessels.

The COVID19 epidemic is a severe public health emergency with huge consequences for the EU citizens, societies and economies. The fishing and aquaculture sectors have been particularly hard hit. The impact on EU operators but also on our partner countries is of great concern to us. We have listened to all concerns and requests for targeted mitigation measures, and have swiftly undertaken concrete measures to tackle the crisis, in particular financial measures aiming at mitigating the socio-economic impact of the coronavirus in the fishery and aquaculture sectors.

Public health, and more specifically prevention, diagnostics and management of infectious diseases are however not within DG MARE's mandate. I would consequently invite you to refer to what is recommended on COVID-19 by the World Health Organisation and in the International Labour Organization's Conventions. Furthermore, let me remind you that Governments, including those of our partner countries, can adopt national restrictions and measures, which are specific to each country.

In this context, I call on your role of Long Distance Advisory Council in sharing such information and guidelines with your members.

Let me thank you for your cooperation and commitment. I invite you to take contact with Ms Pascale Colson, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu; +32 2 29 56273) should you have any question on this reply.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA