



Ref.: 310/RAC

Rome, 6th November 2013

To Alain Cadec

Rapporteur MEP on the EMFF
proposal

Subject: On the funding of the Regional Advisory Councils within the future EMFF.

Dear Alain Cadec,

Following the adoption by the Plenary of the European Parliament of the EMFF proposal on 23 October 2013, and subsequent discussions on the funding of the Advisory Councils (ACs) at the INTER-RAC meeting on 24 October 2013 and the EC Seminar on the implementation of CFP reform in Brussels on 25 October 2013, the Presidents of the 6 RACs (henceforth, “we”) are writing to you to seek your support in our call for an increase in funding so as to secure improved functioning and effectiveness of the (Regional) Advisory Councils.

The future role and the functioning of the ACs established by the final compromise text on the basic regulation of the CFP contemplates the “*appropriate involvement of stakeholders at all stages - from conception to implementation of the measures*” (art.3, f). Moreover, **article 44 “Tasks of Advisory Councils”** clearly states that the Commission shall consult the Advisory Councils where relevant and there are listed 3 tasks:

(a) submit recommendations and suggestions on matters relating to the management of fisheries and the socio-economic and conservation aspects of fisheries and aquaculture to the Commission, and to the Member State concerned, and, in particular, recommendations on how to simplify rules on fisheries management.

(b) inform the Commission and Member States of problems relating to the management and the socio-economic and conservation aspects of fisheries and, where appropriate, of aquaculture in their geographical area or field of competence and propose solutions to overcome these problems;

(c) contribute, in close cooperation with scientists, to the collection, supply and analysis of data necessary for the development of conservation measures. If an issue is of common interest to two or more Advisory Councils, they shall coordinate their positions with a view to adopting joint recommendations on that issue.



In the light of the above, and in order to ensure that we can accomplish all the tasks assigned to us, we are hopeful that the Advisory Councils will benefit from increased funding as a result of their enhanced advisory role within the CFP, so that they can carry out their work.

Furthermore, we are seeking to balance the duration of the Framework Partnership Agreements with the future EMFF, ie 7 years. This possibility, combined with the additional flexibility that we seek in managing our budgets, would contribute to enhance the work of the ACs and would represent a significant advance in operational efficiency.

We hope you will support our comments, and we look forward to receiving your written response.

Yours sincerely,

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