



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE.D.4/MMA/ah

Subject: Reply to the NSAC/NWWAC/MEDAC letter on advice on the implementation of the Control Regulation – ref. : Ares (2026)2593176

Dear Members of the NSAC, NWWAC and MEDAC Executive Committees,

Thank you for your joint letter of 10 March 2026 and for your continued engagement in relation to the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 on fisheries control.

We take note of the concerns you have expressed. The Commission is aware that the progressive entry into force of the revised framework requires adaptation and may raise practical challenges at this stage.

At the same time, it is important to underline that the Fisheries Control Regulation is the result of a thorough legislative process of more than five years and reflects a balanced agreement between the co-legislators – the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. The Commission is bound to implement this legal framework and cannot derogate from obligations that have been agreed in the Regulation.

The focus at this stage must therefore be on ensuring coherent, effective and proportionate implementation, yet in the simplest and least burdensome way for operators and Member States' authorities. Since the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2023/2842, the Commission has always been engaged to support Member States and where possible operators in the implementing process.

Regarding the questions raised following the February 2025 joint Advisory Councils' workshop, a reply was provided on 17 November 2025. This response addressed the main issues raised and informed the preparation of the delegated and implementing acts adopted ahead of the entry into force of the first provisions in January 2026. It also offered further discussions to exchange on your comments and concerns.

That said, it must be recognised that the implementation of new system requires continued dialogue. The Commission remains committed to engaging with Member States and stakeholders, including through the Advisory Councils, to address implementation challenges, provide clarifications, and ensure that secondary legislation and guidance are as clear and workable as possible.

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In this context, we support the ongoing preparation of a follow-up multi-Advisory Council workshop to allow for a structured and practical exchange on implementation issues. I am happy to note that Advisory Councils and DG MARE are exchanging about organising a half day discussion on 16 July 2026 around the implementation of the Control Regulation.

I remain confident that, through continued cooperation, the revised control framework can be implemented in a way that meets its objectives while taking due account of operational realities on the ground.

Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia Rubeck, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

We look forward to continuing this constructive dialogue.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA