



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Fisheries Policy Mediterranean and Black Sea

Brussels
MARE.D3 –E1/PCO-RG/Ares(2020)

To all ACs Chairs and secretaries

Subject: Allocation of funds to the Advisory Councils (ACs) and organisation of a seminar on financial issues

Ref: my letter of 22 January 2020¹

Dear Advisory Councils,

On 22nd January, I wrote you to inform you that the Commission could agree with the proposal of granting each AC a single 80% pre-financing directly at the time of the signature of the grant, instead of two first pre-financings of 40%. However, to avoid the risk of having recovery orders at the time of final payment (when the amount actually spent is less than the pre-financing paid), we also announced that we would stop granting the same amount to each AC, but instead take into account each Advisory Council's individual financing needs.

We have now defined this methodology and proceeded to a split of the available envelope using the following criteria: the average amount spent between 2016 and 2018², the number of members in each AC's General Assembly, the distance between the seat of the AC and Brussels, the number of languages interpreted and the number of languages translated. 90% of the available envelope was allocated in accordance with the average amount spent and the number of members in the General assembly. The distance between the seat and Brussels together with the number of languages interpreted or translated contributed to 10% in the funds allocation.

From this methodology, we obtained a theoretical amount to be granted to each individual AC³. However, given that each of you starts its financial exercise at a different moment of the year, some grants are already signed or ongoing in April 2020⁴, while others will only be prepared in the second half of the year.

For those which could have benefited from a higher grant (this is mainly the case of the MEDAC and the LDAC, but also the BISAC, the CC RUP and the SWWAC), a complementary commitment might be possible before the end of 2020⁵, should the

¹ Ares(2020)394841

² 2019 was excluded, as it is still not financially closed for many ACs.

³ See Column 1 below.

⁴ See Column 2 below.

⁵ See Column 3 below.

concerned AC consider it necessary to get additional funds. In such a case, the AC will have to send us a revised increased budget with the corrected amount. Should this be unnecessary, no additional amount will be granted.

From 2021, we will continue using the same methodology, which will make it possible to determine each individual amount as soon as we know the global budgetary envelope available.

You will find below the situation of each individual AC:

Amount available for each AC taking into account each individual financial needs

Advisory Council	Theoretical amount to be granted (1)	Already granted or under-going (2)	Available for a complementary commitment before the end of 2020 (3)
Aquaculture AC	250.000		
Baltic Sea AC	300.000	300.000	0
Black Sea AC	200.000	183.228,80	16.771,20
CC RUP	270.000	260.443,80	9.556,20
Long Distance AC	350.000	300.000	50.000
Market AC	270.000		
MEDAC	385.000	300.000	85.000
North Sea AC	300.000		
North Western Waters AC	330.000		
Pelagics AC	310.000		
South Western Waters AC	335.000	300.000	35.000

In addition, I have the pleasure to confirm you that we intend to hold a financial seminar with all the ACs **on 12 June 2020 from 10:00 to 12:30**, but given the current circumstances, that meeting would be held via Webex. A draft agenda of this seminar is attached to this letter. We would be grateful for you to let us know by the end of May if there are additional points you would like to raise in this seminar.

Let me thank you for your commitment. I look forward to our continued fruitful cooperation and invite you to take contact with Ms Pascale Colson (Pascale.Colson@ec.europa.eu; + 32 2 29 56273) should you have any questions on this letter.

Yours sincerely,

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