



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE.C1-D3/CA-PCO/dsb/Ares(2022)

Subject: Participation of DG MARE in future meetings of the Advisory Councils

Dear Chairs and Secretariats,

The EU is working towards making Europe the first climate neutral continent in the world by 2050, as announced by the [EU Green Deal](#). The European Commission is determined to be a front-runner in the transition towards a climate neutral society, by setting out an ambitious and realistic plan to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. This means concretely that we, as an institution, commit to halve the emissions stemming from staff and experts' travels by 2024 compared to 2019¹.

The European Commission will continue to reach out to citizens and stakeholders, notably by an increased usage of digital solutions in our work, alternating between in-person and online or hybrid meetings. In accordance with the Communication on “greening the Commission”, meetings and other events should be organised via videoconferencing as much as possible; business travel should be well justified for legal, political or operational reasons. To allow for such essential missions to take place, it is important that meetings are held online or in a hybrid mode wherever possible.

The past two years have presented many challenges to you as Chairs and Secretaries of the Advisory Councils and to the European Commission. This period has also presented opportunities to move forward and collectively we made a quantum leap when it comes to organising online and hybrid meetings. The Advisory Councils have held many successful virtual meetings and have sent a number of recommendations to the Commission.

I would therefore like to ask that you offer hybrid participation when you hold physical meetings. This would allow maximal MARE participation to your meetings. Moreover, on many occasions we have seen that several topics are discussed during your meetings that can encompass different expertise in DG Mare and on several occasions from other DGs (ENV, SANTE, AGRI etc). Hybrid meetings would allow to have the experts on the different topics at your meeting, who can provide you with the responses you need in your discussions.

¹ Communication to the Commission C(2022) 2230 final “[Greening the Commission](#)”, 5 April 2022.

To: the Chairs and Secretaries of the Advisory Councils
AAC, BSAC, BLSAC, LDAC, Market AC, MEDAC, NSAC, NWWAC, PELAC, SWWAC,
CCRUP,

Providing for hybrid meeting possibilities for your meetings will furthermore send a strong signal about our collective objective of becoming climate neutral and the need to drastically reduce CO2 emissions. We are all seeing the dire effects of climate change and eutrophication on our oceans and seas and in some of our regions our fishers are paying a high price for the environmental problems we face. I hope that we can all pull together and offer hybrid or fully virtual meetings for future meetings of the Advisory Councils.

I am looking forward to our continued good cooperation in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

(e-Signed)
Charlina VITCHEVA