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Date: 8 July 2013
Our reference: 1213PRAC84
Subject: Advisory Councils
CC: Ms Martine Aussems, Ms Evangelia Georgitsi (by email)

Dear Lowri,

One of the heads of agreement in the recent reform of the CFP refers to the creation of Advisory Councils (ACs). These bodies are to replace the existing Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) of which the Pelagic RAC is one. This change raises a number of issues which I should like clarification upon.

The basic change is that the number of representatives will be 60% industry and 40% others. What I should like to know is whether this change can be accommodated within the existing structure or will new legal entities require to be created? In some cases this is obvious as no RAC exists. But in the case of existing RACs, will a Regulation be required to abolish the existing RACs and create the new ACs? This is of fundamental importance to the existing bodies. At the present time the legal entity of the Pelagic RAC is a Dutch Foundation which places a number of legal requirements upon us. If the RAC is to be abolished it may be that we need to wind up the Foundation and create a new legal entity. On the other hand, if we can simply amend the Articles of the Foundation, we could make the necessary changes internally.

There are also financial implications to consider. We are approaching our fiscal year end (16 August 2013) and are in the process of lodging our financial request for 2013/2014 with Commission services. But if a new Regulation is to become effective 1 January 2014, will the Commission be able to guarantee financial support through till August 2014, to a body recognised under previous legislation?

I am sure consideration has been given to these matters, but it would help us greatly as we prepare for the Annual General Meeting of the Pelagic RAC, that we have as much clarification as possible as to how the existing RACs are to be transformed in the new ACs. Or whether we effectively need to start again by creating another body.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iain MacSween', written in a cursive style.

Iain MacSween
President Pelagic RAC