



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/UnitD3/JR

Dear Mr Zieliński,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 29 August, in which you request guidance from the Commission on the application of Article 4(7) of the amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/204 related to the representation of small-scale fleets.

I hereby confirm that there is no definition of “small-scale fleets” in EU legislation. Thus, each Advisory Council has some discretion to define this concept based on the specific features of the fleets operating in its area of competence. Possible criteria are, e.g. the length of the vessel, the type of gear and the duration of fishing trips. In general, criteria should be transparent and objective.

The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EU) 2021/1139 defines the concept of “small-scale coastal fishing” as fishing activities carried out by:

- (a) marine and inland fishing vessels of an overall length of less than 12 metres and not using towed gear as defined in point (1) of Article 2 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006;
- (b) fishers on foot, including shellfish gatherers.

Nevertheless, this definition applies only for the purpose of EU public funding, hence it is not mandatory to use it in the context of the representation of small-scale fleets in Advisory Councils.

As a result, in view of the existing requirements, it is at the discretion of the respective Advisory Council to define and justify its own indicators to attribute the “share” of small-scale fleets in the Member States for the way it should be reflected into the composition of the General Assembly and Executive Committee members. These indicators and their methodology should be discussed and agreed within the Advisory

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Council and justified by the features and structure of the fleets operating in the area covered by the Advisory Council.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. 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.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

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