



**REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

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**MEDITERRANEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEDAC  
Attn. Mr. Giampaolo Buonfiglio, Chairman**

**Subject: Invitation to the Conference on the multiannual management plan for small pelagics in the Adriatic Sea**

Dear Mr. Buonfiglio,

It is my great honor to invite you to the Conference on the proposal of the regulation on establishing a multiannual management plan for small pelagics in the Adriatic Sea to be held on 20 March 2017 in Croatia, the city of Zadar, in the Falkensteiner hotel.

The Proposal of the Regulation on establishing a multiannual management plan for small pelagics in the Adriatic Sea represents one of the key pieces of the EU legislation to be discussed during the course of 2017 for the Mediterranean region. Namely, this Regulation contains provisions which setting the main guiding principles and determining further development of the fisheries in the Adriatic Sea. At the same time, this being the first multiannual management plan for the Mediterranean, it can be expected that it will set certain precedents in the fishery management, which is of great significance for the continuation of such an approach within the region. In addition, the small pelagic fishery is of great significance for the Adriatic region where a fairly strong socio-economic element should be properly recognized by the provisions of the Proposal and preserved in its entirety with all of the existing local specificities of the fishery reflected within the Proposal.

The Proposal of the Regulation has just been tabled – 24 February – enabling us to provide a preliminary overview and outline our major concerns. There are also other undisclosed issues related to the management of small pelagics in the Adriatic which have direct or indirect effect on the content of the Proposal. Having said this, issues such as stock assessment inconsistencies and disputes over on the management approach, should also be duly addressed, in addition to the provisions of the Proposal of the Regulation.

Regarding to all of the abovementioned, I have a pleasure to inform you that the European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Mr. Karmenu Vella, himself has already confirmed the participation at the Conference. Taking into consideration the content of the meeting and the importance of the topic to be discussed for the fishery in the Adriatic basin, we would highly appreciate an active participation on behalf of your Administration.

Please find attached to this letter a preliminary Agenda and a Registration Form. We kindly ask you to consider the possibility to participate in the meeting and contribute to the discussion by sharing your knowledge and experience related to the subject. We encourage you to nominate the delegation on behalf of your entity by March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at the latest.

Looking forward to the continuation of our cooperation on this issue and also to positive outcomes of the Conference,

Best regards,

**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**

**Tomislav Tolušić, dipl. iur.**

