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Monsieur Serge Larzabal
Vice Président du CC SUD en charge du
Secrétariat
6, rue Alphonse Rio
56100 Lorient
France

Subject: Installation of marine/offshore wind generators

Your ref: your opinion 118

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your opinion concerning the installation of marine wind generators which we have considered carefully.

As you point out, this type of renewable energy plays a part in the reduction of the EU's dependence on fossil fuel. Indeed, offshore wind generator energy and other forms of renewable marine energies, could make an important contribution to the EU's efforts to reach objectives in the fight against climate change and in the transition to "carbon-free" energy production. The recent agreement, concluded on 14 June 2018 between the European parliament and the European council on the Commission's proposal "Clean energy for all Europeans" set the share of renewable energy in the EU's final consumption by 2030 at 32%.

The fishing sector will benefit from this transition because the effects of climate change and global warming are already being felt in the marine environment. The rise in the temperatures and acidification of the oceans radically change aquatic ecosystems, such that some fishing stocks move from the traditional fishing areas to colder waters.

As regards the decisions to allocate marine areas to human activities, such as fishing or the renewable marine energies, the directive on maritime spatial planning (2014/89/EU) does not oblige Member States to distribute activities into specific areas, or to fix objectives for the management of this space. It does however require their maritime spatial planning programmes to be established in accordance with the minimum common requirements and within a set period of time.

Among these minimum requirements, there is the obligation for the Member States to take account of environmental, economic and social aspects as well as safety aspects

(art.6 (2) (b)), and to guarantee the participation of the actors concerned (art. 6 (2) (d)). On this last point, the directive established very specific obligations, in article 9, on the participation of the public in the development of plans, and on the access to the plans as soon as they are finalised.

Maritime spatial planning programmes must be established by the Member States for 31 March 2021 at the latest (art.15 (3)) and, one year after this date, the Commission will publish a report (art.14 (2)), describing the progress made in the implementation of this directive, including as regards the questions mentioned in the opinion.

In the meantime, the Commission is taking initiatives to support the implementation of directive 2014/89/EU and to facilitate the work of all the participants concerned and the stakeholders in maritime spatial planning in the EU.

By way of example, the Commission finances the European platform "European MSP Platform", a service providing practical information on the maritime spatial planning and the implementation of directive 2014/89/EU. Its website <https://www.msp-platform.eu/> offers a whole range of useful information on the questions that you raise in your opinion, for example, on the coexistence and the synergies between the sectors, such as fishing and offshore wind generators, consultation and participation of the interested parties, or impact analyses (social, environmental, economic).

This web site recognises the importance of fishing and presents comprehensive information, including information on the maritime basins. On the Atlantic, this site includes a series of links to fishing bodies and organisations, including South West Water Advisory Council (SWWAC).

This information could be useful for SWWAC members, particularly from the fishing sector, when they contribute to work in the framework of maritime spatial planning, or in the exchanges and/or consultations with other sectors of the maritime economy.

Another item of information provided by the "European MSP Platform" relates to the transborder cooperation projects in maritime spatial planning, which are in place in the area covered by SWWAC. These projects are financed in the framework of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (FEAMP) or via the Interreg programme, when it relates to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The MARSP (FEAMP) and PLASMAR (ERDF) projects, carried out in Macaronesia (Spain, Portugal), or the SIMNORAT (FEAMP) project, in the North Atlantic (Spain, Portugal and France) aim to respond to some of the questions raised in your opinion. These projects include consultations of the stakeholders. These consultations may give your members an opportunity to send their opinions.

Please contact Mrs Pascale Colson, coordinator of the Advisory councils (pascale.colson.@ec.europa.eu, +32.2.295.62.73) should you require any additional information regarding this reply.

Yours sincerely

Joao AGUIAR MARCHADO

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