



КОНСУЛТАТИВЕН СЪВЕТ ЗА ЧЕРНО МОРЕ
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CONSILIUL CONSULTATIV PENTRU MAREA
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Сдружение, вписано в РЮЛНЦ
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ЕИК 176964109
Седалище и адрес на управление:
гр. Варна, ул. "Охрид" N 24-26, ет.1
office@blsaceu.eu

Asociatie, inregistrata in Registrul
persoanelor juridice fara scop patrimonial
al R Bulgaria, CUI 176964109
Sediul si adresa de conducere:
Mun. Varna, str. "Ohrid" N 24-26, etaj 1
office@blsaceu.eu

Minutes

From a meeting of Focus Group 1 of BISAC

February 24, 2021

Topic: "FG 1- Sea fishing and the COVID pandemic"

On February 24, 2021 in Bulgaria, Stara Zagora, in the hotel Calista where gathered the members of BISAC from the Bulgarian side and in Tulcea, were gathered the members of BISAC from the Romanian side and through video link between the two groups held a focus group 1 meeting of BISAC with a starting time of 16.00, with the following agenda:

1. Impact of the COVID pandemic on fishing activities, financial support from Member States and needs.
2. Comments and discussions.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the BISAC Mr. Yordan Gospodinov.

A questionnaire was presented to assess the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on marine fisheries and aquaculture, prepared by the Secretariat and sent to all members online.

The following are comments on the aid granted to the fisheries sector in both Member States. In Bulgaria, the aid has been granted and has already been received by fishermen, as well as by fish processing companies. At the moment, the second tranche of the support is being paid.

For Romania, fishermen have only recently received a guide with the necessary presentation documents to be able to apply for aid. According to the comments of the Romanian members of the BISAC, it is clear that the guide is cumbersome, it requires the submission of a large volume of documents - about 300-400 pages to be scanned from the fishing logs for 2017, 2018 and 2019 and to be submitted together other completed

declarations. In Romania, the aid does not follow the ship but is granted to a legal entity. Also, ships that do not have 3 years of history cannot apply for aid.

Mr. Yordan Gospodinov explained that in Bulgaria the application instructions prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food were agreed with the fishing associations, and the necessary information about the catches - a few years ago, was provided ex officio by EAFA.

Ms. Mihaela Candea-Mirea also explained that in Romania there was also a consultation with fishermen before the preparation of the guide for applying for help, but nevertheless the procedure is cumbersome and no funds have been allocated yet.

Mr. Yordan Gospodinov pointed out the fact that 102 vessels in Bulgaria received financial assistance in the first tranche of payment of financial assistance, and in the second tranche their number was 98. Bulgarian fishermen did not provide data on their catches in recent years, but EAFA and MAFG provided them ex officio, which is a significant facilitation.

At the same time, in Romania, fishermen are required to scan their fishing logs themselves for 120 fishing days, 3 years ago, although ANPA also has this data.

Ms. Mihaela Candea-Mirea expressed regret that the representatives of the state administration of both countries were not present at today's meeting of the Focus Group, because they could exchange information and use the better practice.

The meeting closes.

The protocol was prepared by Ms. Elena Peneva

Chairman of BISAC - Dr. Yordan Gospodinov