



BLACK SEA ADVISORY COUNCIL
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REPORT

Of Dr. Yordan Gospodinov, General Secretary of BISAC On the meeting with Mr. Joao Machado

The meeting with Mr. Joao Machado, CEO of General Directorate of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries /DG MORE/ of the EC. This meeting was held at the request of the BISAC, and the topics for discussion and the participants had been coordinated in advance. These were advised to the Headquarters of GFCM in advance.

The meeting was held as follows:

- Manaila Sorin – Chairman of the BISAC;
- Dr. Yordan Gospodinov – General Secretary of the BISAC;
- Mr. Joao Machado – CEO of DG MORE;
- Mrs. Pascal Colsant – Head of the advisory councils;
- Interpreter from/into Bulgarian and English;

We discussed the following topics with Mr. Machado:

1. Expansion of the areas under Natura 2000 in the Black Sea region;
2. Increase in the turbot quotas as a result of the recovery of the fish stocks;
3. Fishing capacity of the Romanian fishing fleet;
4. Authorized and prohibited fishing gear for catching demersal species and bivalves;
5. Involving the parties working in the sector in activities connected with data collection, investigation and recovery of the fish stocks, protection and clean-up of the marine space.

As proposed by Mr. Manaila, he reported on the first three topics, and I reported on the last two. Afterwards, we both made additional comments to our main reports.

As regards the turbot quota, I supported the idea that we should come up with an option to increase the quotas. Mr. Machado expressed his support, and recommended that we should cooperate more with GFCM and should find an opportunity to cooperate more closely with the Turkish stakeholders. As regards the fishing capacity, I expressed my opinion that we could and should work towards developing the “dormant” capacity, which is idle in Bulgaria.

As regards the gear for catching demersal species and bivalves, I explained that the Bulgarian laws are more restrictive than the European ones, and virtually no fishing gear is authorized, except catching the said species by hand. I asked for the support of the attendees so

that the European practices could be introduced in Bulgaria and Romania and some fishing gear could be authorized. I emphasized the fact that this should be a short-term objective accompanied by the respective research and scientific evaluations for which we and the respective administration or scientific units should be supported.

Mr. Machado proposed that we should submit a recommendation to the respective administration and inform GD MORE.

As regards involving the parties working in the sector in activities connected with data collection, investigation and recovery of the fish stocks, protection and clean-up of the marine space, Mr. Machado expressed his approval of the idea. **He pointed out that the collection of data and waste already has the financial support of the European Fisheries Fund, and also asked for a recommendation for actively involving the stakeholders in the sector in the said activities so as to gain support for the activities.**

In conclusion, Mr. Machado pointed out that he supports all our initiatives and emphasized the importance of a greater activity on our part including demands, proposals and recommendations to the national institutions and administrations. The BISAC is the body that serves as a link between the business and the other stakeholders involved in the activities in the off-shore areas and the respective shores, and also with the other EU member-states, GD MORE and the Black Sea countries, as well as the other advisory councils.

Our objective was

- To present the BISAC, and to explain the main problems in the fishing sector in the two countries – Romania and Bulgaria;
- To request support from GD MORE and personally from Mr. Machado for the purpose of solving the major problems in the fisheries sectors in Romania and Bulgaria.

Attained results

We explained what our problems are and received assurance and guidelines as to how this could be achieved with the support of GD MORE.

Dr. Gospodinov, General Secretary of the Black Sea Advisory Council

25.09.2017.