



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Member of the Commission

Brussels, 16/04/2024  
*Ref. Ares(2024)589510*

Association pour la promotion et la responsabilisation des acteurs de la pêche artisanale maritime (APRAPAM)  
African Confederation of Artisanal Fisheries Organisations (CAOPA)  
Brot fuer die Welt, Germany (Bread for the World)  
Canoe Owners Association of Ghana (CaFGOAG)  
Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA)  
Fédération Libre de Pêche Artisanale (FLPA, Mauritanie)  
Feedback EU  
Sierra Leone Artisanal Fishermen Union (SLAFU)  
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)

Dear Signatories,

Thank you for your letter from 25 January 2024 in which you raise the issue of the production of fishmeal and fish oil in West Africa, and please accept my apologies for the delay in answering. My colleague, Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen, suggested that I also reply on her behalf.

While the European Union does not have a specific strategy exclusively dedicated to fish oil and fish meal production, the importance of this issue is addressed within the broader context of fisheries management, aquaculture development, sustainability goals, and by the Circular Economy and Farm-to-Fork initiatives.

The EU is committed to strengthening cooperation between Africa and Europe on ocean governance and blue economy, from which to forge a mutually beneficial roadmap for the two continents in line with the 2030 UN Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, and the AU's Agenda 2063. As stated in the Joint Communication on the EU's International Ocean Governance from 2022, the EU strives to safeguard entry into its market only for products that are sustainably sourced and produced. In line with its blue economy approach, the EU seeks to promote economic growth and improve livelihoods while ensuring sustainable use of marine resources and the well-being of coastal communities. Undoubtedly, effective management of fisheries and sustainable aquaculture are pre-conditions for a positive food system transformation.

The ideas and suggestions put forward in your letter feed our current reflexions with all relevant services in the context of the multi-fold cooperation between the EU and Africa. I would like to use this opportunity to give you some examples of what the European

Commission is already doing in West Africa that are relevant to the topics that you have raised (see annex attached).

Despite all these and many other initiatives and efforts, it is clear that further efforts are required and that there is ample room for improvement. Your letter is particularly valuable in highlighting specific and extremely important areas where more work is needed, and I would like to thank you once again for bringing these issues to our attention. We look forward to continuing the discussions and reflections in the relevant fora, and also to having the opportunity to learn more about the discussions and outcomes of the Accra Workshop once the Report is published.

Yours sincerely,



Virginijus Sinkevičius

Enclosure:      Annex: actions of the European Commission

c.c.:              Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships  
Céline Idil, Acting Director DG MARE B, DG MARE B3  
Raphaël Goulet, DG MARE B1  
Stijn Billiet, DG MARE B2  
Isabelle Garzon, DG MARE B Adviser  
Felix Leinemann, MARE A2  
Raluca Ivanescu, MARE C3  
Leonard Mizzi, DG INTPA F3