

Committee on Fisheries  
The Chair

CONFIDENTIAL

IPOL-COM-PECH D (2024) 32377

D 308559 07.11.2024

Mr Bernd Lange  
Chair  
Conference of Committee Chairs  
SPINELLI 12G301

Dear Mr Lange,

The Committee on Fisheries (PECH), in accordance with Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, held a public confirmation hearing on 6 November 2024 with Mr. Costas Kadis, Commissioner-designate, who, subject to the positive outcome of the nomination procedure, will be responsible for Fisheries and Oceans.

On 16 October 2024, the Committee on Fisheries, pursuant to Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure and Article 2 of Annex VII thereto, received the letter from the Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs regarding the scrutiny of the declaration of interests of Mr. Kadis.

Prior to the confirmation hearing, Parliament had sent the Commissioner-designate a list of written questions. PECH Committee Members noted that Mr. Kadis answered those questions and dealt with the priorities outlined in a satisfactory manner.

The course of the confirmation hearing is described in the verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

On the basis of the responses of the Members present at the confirmation hearing, as well as the comments made by PECH Committee's Coordinators, who met *in camera* after the confirmation hearing, I convey to you the following assessment:

As regards the candidate's personal qualifications, Mr Kadis demonstrated a deep understanding of the issues of relevance for EU fisheries and aquaculture policies. He appeared to be familiar with Parliament's procedures, fully acknowledged Parliament's role as a co-legislator and key inter-institutional player and clearly emphasised his willingness to work closely with the European Parliament.

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He also confirmed his commitment to the European values, democracy and the rule of law.

During the confirmation hearing, Mr. Kadis presented his messages and ideas clearly and answered satisfactorily to most of the questions raised by Members.

His statements at the hearing, as well as his professional and academic background, attest that the candidate is capable of handling his future portfolio.

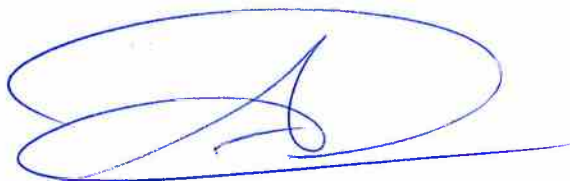
The Coordinators acknowledged the candidate's commitment to meet with all Group Coordinators to clarify more in detail key political issues to be addressed in the field of oceans, fisheries and aquaculture policies.

The opinion of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), invited to participate in the confirmation hearing, is in annex.

The general outcome of this confirmation hearing is that the Commissioner-designate Kadis gave a convincing impression of his aptitude to be a Member of the College of Commissioners and to carry out the specific tasks assigned.

In accordance with Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure and Article 5 of Annex VII thereto, the PECH Coordinators representing a large majority of two-thirds (20/26) of the committee members belonging to a political group, approved that the Commissioner-designate Costas Kadis is qualified both to be a Member of the College of Commissioners and to carry out the specific tasks assigned to him.

During the evaluation meeting, the Coordinators of the groups The Left and ESN requested inclusion of **minority opinions**, as stated below.



Carmen CRESPO DIAZ

Chair of the Committee on Fisheries

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### **Minority opinion presented by the LEFT Group**

Though the candidate showed a good knowledge of fisheries policy and marine biodiversity issues, in particular as former marine biologist, the candidate's past experience in his national government raises some concerns over the implementation of existing environmental and fisheries legislation, particularly regarding the waste management scandal and the Natura 2000 infringement procedure against Cyprus. In addition, the candidate expressed his willingness to revise the Common Fishery Policy (CFP), depending on the results of the outcomes of the upcoming CFP evaluation. This poses significant risks regarding the protection of the marine environment. His answers concerning the support provided to small-scale fishers, including the implementation of article 17 and improve the access to EMFAF funding, remained vague, incomplete and was lacking concrete measures. The candidate did not expressed concrete willingness to follow-up on the commitments set by the European Commission in its 2030 EU Biodiversity Strategy when it comes to fisheries, which is key in the light of the biodiversity and climate crisis we are facing.

### **Minority opinion presented by the ESN Group**

I cannot support the proposed candidate for the post of EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans due to his stated intention to continue and expand the policies of the Green Deal and Blue Economy. These ideologically over-loaded strategies have proven detrimental to small fisheries and aquaculture in Europe. They have also not done enough to combat the problem of IUU fishing both in EU waters and by third countries that sell seafood products to the EU. This is not surprising, since the focus is on “new business models” surrounding tourism, blue carbon credits and algae farming -- all unproven schemes that can only be forced into existence with EU funding. The creation of a blue carbon credit market would simply introduce another speculative system into the EU regulatory labyrinth that can be gamed. We already see in China that such “credits” are used to offset activities like illegal fishing. Ignored are real-world problems: Small fisheries struggle with dwindling fish stocks and the aquaculture industry with predations by animals such as the fish otter while the EU remains dependent on the rest of the world for 70% of its seafood consumption. The EU must set better and more efficient goals.

Annex: Opinion of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

c/c: Committee Coordination and Legislative Programming unit

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety  
The Chair

SS/DBR/mi  
D(2024)32959

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Ms Carmen CRESPO DÍAZ  
Chair of the Committee on Fisheries

Dear Chair,

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, invited to the confirmation hearing of Commissioner-designate Costas Kadis, which took place on 6 November 2024, considers that the Commissioner-designate is qualified to be a member of the College of Commissioners and is qualified to carry out the particular duties he has been assigned in the field of fisheries and oceans policy.

This opinion has been adopted by Coordinators representing at least a simple majority of Committee members belonging to a political group.



Antonio Decaro

Cc: Bernd Lange, Chair of CCC