



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Brussels, 04 DEC. 2014  
4063613

## SAILING TOWARDS 2020

### **A high level conference on the results of Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund and the future of Community-Led Local Development in coastal communities**

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

The Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) of the European Commission (DG MARE), with the assistance of the FARNET Support Unit, is organising a high level conference on the results of Axis 4 of the EFF and the future of Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) in coastal communities.

This event will take place in Brussels on the 2-3 March 2015 and will be opened by Mr Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

By March 2015, preparations for the European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds programmes in the period 2014-2020 will be well underway. This new period will bring new challenges for coastal communities, especially those that are dependent on fishing. They will need to adapt to both the challenge of implementing the reformed Common Fisheries Policy, and to fostering new opportunities for quality jobs, competitiveness and sustainable growth, in particular by investing in knowledge and innovation.

During the 2007-2014 period, Axis 4 of the EFF was the main instrument for the sustainable development of fisheries areas. Implemented by 312 Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs), Axis 4 has supported over 9 000 projects at the local level, applying a bottom-up, local development approach in fisheries and coastal areas across 21 Member States.

In the 2014-2020 period, CLLD will be supported by the EMFF, as well as by other ESI Funds such as the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The "Sailing towards 2020" conference will look at the lessons drawn from Axis 4 of the EFF and its achievements in order to inform the development of CLLD in Europe's coastal areas. In particular, it will consider the new opportunities presented by a better integration of coastal communities in the development of their territories, working in partnership with other actors, and in synergy with other funding opportunities.

With the active involvement of more than 450 public, private and community stakeholders concerned with the sustainable development of fisheries areas, the conference will run over two half days.

Please find in the covering email to this correspondence the necessary information for registration. Interpretation will be provided in EN/FR/ES/DE/IT/PL throughout the event.

DG MARE hopes that you will be able to participate in this event.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lowri Evans', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lowri Evans