



European Ombudsman

Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudsman

Ms Anne Friel
ClientEarth

afriel@clientearth.org

Strasbourg, 23/07/2019

Complaint 640/2019/TE

Subject of case: The transparency of the Council's decision-making process for adopting annual regulations setting fishing quotas (total allowable catches)

Dear Ms Friel,

On 27 June 2019, the Ombudsman's inquiry team inspected the documents held by the Council related to the above-mentioned decision-making processes for the last two years. On the same day, the inquiry team held a meeting with Council representatives to discuss certain issues concerning your complaint.

Please find enclosed a copy of report on the inspection meeting.

I would be grateful to receive any observations you may have on the inspection report by **30 August 2019**.

In addition, I have now concluded that, for the purposes of my inquiry, it would be useful to receive a written reply from the Council to clarify certain issues discussed during the inspection meeting. In particular, I asked the Council to obtain its views on how the transparency of the decision-making process for adopting the TAC Regulation can be ensured, notably by publishing proactively the relevant documents, in line with Article 12 of Regulation 1049/2001.

I will get back to you as soon as the Council sends me its reply.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the case handler, Ms Tanja Ehnert, who can be reached on +32 228 46768 and at tanja.ehnert@ombudsman.europa.eu. Please note that Ms Francesca Pavesi (+32 228 30067; francesca.pavesi@ombudsman.europa.eu) will be responsible for this inquiry from September onwards.



Yours sincerely,

Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudsman

Enclosure: Copy of the Report on inspection meeting