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Commissioner for Environment
Oceans and Fisheries

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AKTEA
The network of women in fisheries and aquaculture

Dear members of AKTEA,

Thank you for the message of AKTEA at the occasion of the international day of women's rights on 8 March 2021.

Your message is an important reminder of the need to increase the recognition of the role of women in fisheries and give them the place they deserve in decision-making.

As I have underlined in my video-address to your meeting that took place in February 2020¹, the Commission is working in various ways to ensure a better position for women in EU fisheries. On the policy side, we are enhancing the collection of social data, including data on the role of women, for instance in non-remunerated jobs. These social data will in particular provide an input to the 2022 report on the functioning of the Common Fisheries Policy and pave the way towards a better assessing of social impacts of fisheries management measures.

The recent adoption of the new European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) ensures the continuation of funding for measures to support women in fisheries and aquaculture. As you know, the Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) play and will continue to play a key role in this regard. They provide a support network for women entrepreneurship and often foresee a central role for women in governance. Since Member States are currently preparing their programming for the upcoming seven years, I would call upon your national members to contribute to that process.

Finally, I can inform you that, as announced in the EU Gender Equality Strategy², DG MARE will launch in 2022 a new call dedicated to women in the "blue economy" under the EMFAF.

I thank you once again for your message of 8 March 2021 and look forward to our continued cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

¹ 'AKTEA, Revive, Renew and Relaunch the European Network of Women in Fisheries and Aquaculture', EESC, Brussels 24-26 February 2020

² COM(2020)152 of 5.03.2020