



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Raffaele Fitto
Executive Vice-President

Brussels, 15/01/2026

Dear Ms Wackström,

Thank you for your letter sharing your perspectives on the scope of the forthcoming Commission initiatives for islands and coastal communities.

The Commission fully recognises the many specific challenges facing islands, many of which you describe in your letter. As you also rightly mention, Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) explicitly states that particular attention should be paid to, among others, island regions due to their severe and permanent natural handicaps. It is in light of these facts that the Commission will adopt its first ever EU Strategy for Islands this year, with a distinct framework of actions to address the specific needs caused by insularity.

I would like to strongly encourage your association to contribute actively to the upcoming Call for Evidence for the EU Strategy for islands, which will be launched shortly. Your continued engagement will be important to ensuring that the Strategy reflects the diversity and full potential of the EU's islands.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that in order to maximise the synergies in the areas of common interest to islands and coastal areas, the Commission plans to prepare and adopt a separate Strategy for Coastal Communities at the same time as the Strategy for Islands.

Thank you again for sharing your perspectives on and I look forward to engaging with you and your association going forward in the shaping of the EU policy towards islands.

Yours sincerely,


Raffaele Fitto

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