

Reform of the control system applicable to the Common Fisheries Policy

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Contribution to the reduction of administrative burden

Meeting of the High Level Group of Independent Stakeholders
on Administrative burdens
Brussels, 18 September 2008

Introduction and background

- 80% of EU stocks still overfished
- Failure of the control policy with significant consequences for the future of fisheries resources, the fishing industry and the regions dependent on fishing
- The Commission proposes to substantially reform the control system underpinning the CFP, core priority for the Commission in the field of fisheries in 2008

The current situation

- Outdated and incoherent control system
 - control regime is limited primarily to the control of quota uptakes and technical measures
 - Absence of a culture of compliance
 - New needs have arisen in respect to control which are not covered by the current system
- Overcapacity: Structural problem leads to the unprofitability of the fishing fleets and therefore creates incentives for non-compliance with the CFP rules
- Limited and ineffective control mechanisms at the disposal of the Commission

Impact on Administrative burden

- Complexity of the legal framework
- Obsolete and expensive approach to inspection and control
 - Inspection activities not targeted
 - Outdated or inexistent validation systems
 - Unnecessary reporting obligations for the Member States
 - Burden of paper-based tools for operators
- Unfair implementation of control measures

Content of the proposal

I- A new, common approach to control and inspection

- Standardised and coordinated inspection actions and procedures at sea and on land (including transport and market)
- The introduction of a comprehensive traceability system
- Specific control measures for multiannual plans, discards, marine protected areas, real time closures.
- Modern technologies and efficient data validation systems
- Specific measures to ensure capacity limits (fleet management)
- Measures for the control of recreational fishing

Content of the proposal

II- A culture of compliance

- Simplification and rationalisation of the legal framework
- Introduction of deterrent and harmonised sanctions (including the establishment of a penalty point system)
- Improved cooperation between Member States and with the Commission
- Review the mandate of the Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA)

Content of the proposal

III-Effective application of CFP rules

- Redefine and strengthen the powers of the Commission and the Commission inspectors
- Extend the possibilities for the Commission to close a fishery
- Possible financial measures against Member States in case of inadequate management
- More flexibility for the Commission to proceed to deductions of quotas and the
- denial of quota transfers and exchanges in case of inadequate management
- Package of emergency measures

Contributions to the reduction of administrative burdens (1)

- A consolidated legal framework for control
- Improvement and rationalisation of the allocation of human resources through an increased use of modern technologies
- Extension of the electronic logbook

Contributions to the reduction of administrative burdens (2)

- More efficient system based on risk analysis
- Better cooperation between the Member States
- Reduction of the obligations of Member States to transmit information to the Commission

Conclusions

- Reform should contribute to more efficient and effective fishing structures in the long run, despite initial structural adjustments
- Balanced system between simplification of the rules and the need to maintain the core obligations
- Increase the level of compliance with the CFP rules and development of a culture of compliance and a level playing field
- Broader support and confidence among the fishing industry and the consumers